FLOWER COMICS

風と木の詩

9

竹宮恵子

FLOWER COMICS

フラワーコミックス

小学館

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雑誌 45112-29

＊フラワーコミックス＊
風と木の詩
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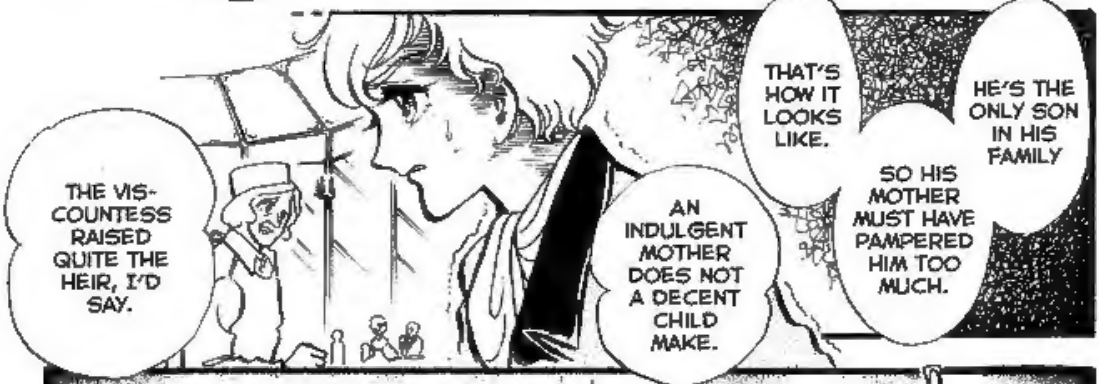
9

WHY IS MY HEALTH SO POOR?!
IF THINGS ARE LIKE THIS, I'LL BE DEFEATED BY MYSELF EVEN BEFORE I CAN FIGHT ANYBODY.
UGH
HOW IRRITATING!
AH... THE FAMILIAR LUXEMBOURGER ESTABLISHMENT.
I HAVEN'T COME HERE FOR A WHILE...
WELCOME!
whisper
whisper
EVEN HERE, HUH?

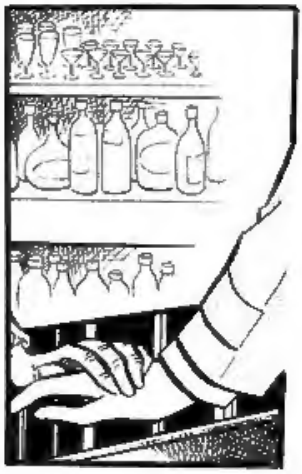
WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION WAS HE GIVEN, I WONDER?
I'D LOVE TO SEE HIS PARENT'S FACES!

HE LOOKED HARMLESS LIKE A LITTLE LAMB, THE KIND OF GUY EVERY DAMSEL AROUND HERE YEARNED FOR.
SO VERY DECEIVING!

HUMPH, HE'S PUTTING UP QUITE THE CALM LOOK


THE VISCOUNTESS RAISED QUITE THE HEIR, I'D SAY.
AN INDULGENT MOTHER DOES NOT A DECENT CHILD MAKE.
THAT'S HOW IT LOOKS LIKE.
HE'S THE ONLY SON IN HIS FAMILY
SO HIS MOTHER MUST HAVE PAMPERED HIM TOO MUCH.

TO TALK ABOUT MOTHER IN SUCH A MANNER...!
BUT MOTHER...
YOU CAN TALK ALL YOU WANT ABOUT ME...



SURELY SHE MUST BE LIKE HER, THAT COCOTTE
LIKE HIS MOTHER?
OH, I BET HE HAS AN OEDIPUS COMPLEX!

AND AMAZINGLY, WHEN I DID THIS
I WOULD CALM DOWN.
"WHO DO YOU BELONG TO?"
GRASP YOUR RIGHT HAND... SOFTLY IN YOUR LEFT HAND AND SAY THIS.
I WAS QUITE QUARRELSOME WHEN I WAS YOUNG, LONG AGO.
... AH, THAT'S WHAT MY WIFE USED TO TELL ME TO DO.
"WHO DO YOU BELONG TO?"
I WAS DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH MY WIFE, SO I WENT AGAINST EVERYONE'S OBJECTIONS AND MARRIED HER.
OUR MARRIAGE WAS ALMOST LIKE ELOPING.
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WHO DO YOU BELONG TO...
BUT...
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS.
OF COURSE, A VISCOUNT LIKE YOU IS IN A VERY DIFFERENT POSITION...

風と木の詩⑨

PAIVA

SOME LETTERS HAVE ARRIVED
FROM THE OLD MASTER AND YOUR MOTHER.
.....!
I KNOW WHAT THEY SAY WITHOUT EVEN READING THEM. MY PARENTS' THOUGHTS... ALL OF THEM.
I SEE.....
NO...
THEY WERE BROUGHT BY DIFFERENT MESSENGERS.
THEY CAME TOGETHER?
MOTHER...
IF YOU GIVE IT TIME AND DISTANCE, I AM SURE YOU WILL FORGET HER.
I BEG OF YOU
PLEASE TRY YOUR BEST TO FORGET HER..."
"ASLAN COME BACK TO ME...
AND PLEASE FORGET... FORGET ABOUT THAT WOMAN.

"ASLAN
THINGS CAN'T REMAIN LIKE THIS.
IF YOU CAN'T COME TO A DECISION YOURSELF, I WILL.
IF I DO NOT GET AN ANSWER AFTER A WEEK I WILL COME TO SEE YOU.
BUT I PRAY...
I GIVE YOU ONE WEEK TO CHOOSE.
OR WILL YOU LEAVE PARIS AND COME BACK HERE?
WILL YOU BREAK UP WITH THAT WOMAN ONCE AND FOR ALL?
FATHER, SHOULD I BE YOUR DEAR SON FOR MY WHOLE LIFE...
OR SHOULD I BECOME INDEPENDENT FROM YOU, AS A SINGLE MAN?
.....
I PRAY THAT I DO NOT HAVE TO GET INVOLVED"

"I WENT AGAINST EVERYONE'S OBJECTIONS AND MARRIED HER."
"OUR MARRIAGE WAS ALMOST LIKE ELOPING."
HOW TO AFFIRM MY INDEPENDENCE...
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO IT.
WHICH ONE IS THE RIGHT ANSWER? I HAVE NO IDEA.
BUT...
"I AM SURE YOU WILL FORGET HER IF YOU GIVE IT TIME AND DISTANCE."
"ASLAN"
I'D ALMOST PREFER TO JUST GIVE IT ALL UP...
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO WRITE THIS KIND OF LETTER TO MY DEAR MOTHER.
MOTHER, FATHER...
THEY ARE OPPONENTS
TO WHOM I CANNOT BEAR TO RAISE A SWORD AGAINST AND FIGHT.
BAM!

PAIVA!!
DESPITE THAT, WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
I HAVE NO GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL BE HAPPY...
RIGHT NOW I HAVE NOTHING TO MY NAME BUT MYSELF.
ALL I CAN DO IS PRAY THAT WE WILL...
EVEN SO, PAIVA...
COME WITH ME!!

HOW ODD...
LATELY MASTER ASLAN HAS BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT WRITING LETTERS. WHY IS THIS?
AND YET HE WRITES NO RECIPIENT ON THEM AND DOESN'T SEND THEM...
I KNOW HE'S BEEN COMING OVER A LOT LATELY TO SEE YOU.
SAY... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WATTS?
!
LIDELLE ...
COME HERE FOR A MOMENT
JUST WHAT KIND OF LETTERS ARE THOSE?

SO, IF YOU'RE NOT OPPOSED TO IT, MAYBE...
I CAN TELL YOU'RE REALLY DEAR TO HIM.
STOP, MASTER ASLAN!
BE-CAUSE ...
WHY WOULD YOU BE PAYING ATTEN-TION TO THAT?
HE'S A NICE GUY, SERI-OUSLY!
LIDEL-LE!
I CAN'T ...!!
EXCUSE ...
EXCUSE ME...
BUT MAYBE IF I'M NOT AROUND ANY-MORE...
THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT THIS...
WATTS, FORGIVE ME...
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
DEPARTING!
THE TRAIN GOING TO MARSEILLE BY WAY OF LYON WILL SOON BE DE-PARTING!
THE TRAIN FROM ALSACE, LATE BY 30 MINUTES, WILL BE ARRIVING IN LINE 3.

HOW MANY TRAINS IN A DAY...
THE TIMETABLE FOR SWITZERLAND-AUSTRIA
MOTHER!!
OH, YOU'RE GOING TO SWITZERLAND!
IT'S A LONG TRIP...
AH!
ASLAN! ASLAN, IS THAT YOU?
I'M JUST KILLING TIME.
AH? HUH...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I CAME TO MEET MY FATHER, WHO'S COMING FROM OUR HOMETOWN TO VISIT ME.
HOW UNEXPECTED, MEETING YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I SAID SOME MEAN THINGS BACK THEN...
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN MEETING WITH HER LATELY.
THE RUMOURS WILL DISAPPEAR RIGHT AWAY.
THAT'S FOR THE BEST, ASLAN.

WITH WATTS TOO!
SEE... SEE YOU! LET'S MEET AGAIN SOON!

LOUIS!
OH!

ザッ
I WOULD HAVE FALTERED
HAD IT BEEN WATTS
GOOD THING IT WAS LOUIS-RENÉ...
ガヤガヤ

AND KEEP MYSELF TOGETHER
I WAS ABLE TO MEET WITH LOUIS-RENÉ
GOD IS ON MY SIDE

I WANT TO SEE YOU...!
PAIVA
PAIVA

I BEG OF YOU
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE TO WHOM I CAN ASK THIS.
P-PLEASE WAIT!... THAT'S VERY...
WHA
WITH THE NECES-SARY EX-PENSES OUT
I HAVE ONLY THIS MUCH LEFT, BUT PLEASE ACCEPT IT.
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS WAIT NEAR HER MANSION.
ONE CAR-RIAGE.
TOMOR-ROW AT ONE O'CLOCK IN THE NIGHT
ARE.
ARE YOU REALLY ..
G-GOING TO RUN AWAY WITH THE MARQUIS'S WOMAN?
YES
WITH YOUR WIFE.
JUST LIKE YOU ONCE DID...

FOR ALL MY SINS.
AND THEN... I'LL KEEP ON SINNING EVEN MORE
GOD... NOW, RIGHT HERE
I SHAL REPEN
I UNDERSTAND CLEARLY
THAT MY HAPPINESS WILL STAND ON TOP OF ALL THESE SACRIFICES
I WILL HAVE LOST!
AND THAT IF
I CAN'T BE HAPPY WITH HER

HE'S GIVING THEM TO KANON!
THOSE LETTERS
REMEMBER, KANON. NOT TODAY, TOMORROW.
OH
BE SURE TO DELIVER ALL FIVE OF THEM, UNDERSTOOD?
PERFECTLY, MASTER.
I'LL BE DROPPING IT OFF AT THE STATION WHEN I GO OUT
SO NEVER MIND THAT.
AH, NO, IF IT'S DELIVERED ONLY TOMORROW IT WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME.
IS THIS LUGGAGE TO BE DELIVERED AS WELL? IF IT IS, I WILL TAKE IT TOO.
THEY HAVE TO ARRIVE BEFORE THE SCHOOL BREAK.
IT'S SOME OLD BOOKS AND A FEW OTHER THINGS I PROMISED I'D SEND TO A JUNIOR OF MINE.
!!!

.....
AH, HUH
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?
GOOD BYE, LIDELLE

IS THE YOUNG MASTER NOT COMING BACK HOME TODAY?
.....

LOOK AT THE SNOW OUTSIDE.
IF I GO WITH NORMAL FOOT-WEAR, I WON'T BE ABLE TO WALK TWO METERS.
WELL! YOU ASKED FOR BOOTS, MASTER
SO I AS-SUMED YOU WOULD BE GOING ON SOME JOURNEY!

YES I WON'T BE ABLE TO WALK TWO METERS
ON THE MOUNTAIN-OUS PATHS OF SNOWY TYROL...

YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT!
I WON'T BE COMING HOME TONIGHT BE-CAUSE I'LL BE STAYING WITH WATTS.

WHEN AN ARTIST WANTS TO REACH HIS PINNACLE, HE MUST FIRST RID HIMSELF OF ALL ATTACH-MENTS.
IN ORDER TO FOCUS ONLY ON HIS WORK... IN ORDER TO BE FREE...
HE MUST FOR-SAKE ANY AND EVERY THING HE CHER SHES IN THE WORLD.
BUT IF MAKING YOUR OWN COMPLETELY NEW FOOTPR NTS ON THE SNOW WERE AN ART AS WELL
THEN WOULDN'T WALKING THE PATH THAT YOU YOURSELF HAVE CHOSEN BE AN ART, TOO?

ASLAN!
I WANTED TO SEE YOU!
PAIVA..
ASLAN!

LET'S WALK AS WE SPEAK, HE'S IN THE LIVING ROOM OVER THERE.
THE MARQUIS IS WATCHING.
OH, ASLAN
I'M SO HAPPY YOU'VE COME, I WAS SO SCARED.
PLEASE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, ACT CASUAL, SMILE AND NOD...
I'LL BE COMING AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT.
I'LL CALL YOU JUST ONCE, FROM THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR ROOM.
WHETHER YOU COME OR NOT...
WHATEVER THE CASE MAY BE, I'LL ABANDON MY HOME... AND LEAVE PARIS.
EH?!
THAT, EVEN IF IT IS A DISREGARD OF MY PARENTS' GOODWILL, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TAKE A PATH THAT IS TRUE TO MYSELF.
I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY BECAUSE PEOPLE DON'T APPROVE OF YOU.
I CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD
ASLAN!

SO, PAIVA
THAT'S WHY I WILL CALL YOU JUST ONCE.
I INTEND TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES THAT COME FROM IT.
IGNORING ALL THE OPPOSITION, I'VE ACCEPTED THAT ANSWER.
THIS IS THE ANSWER TO A QUESTION I'VE BEEN FACING EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
AND I'LL GO, EVEN IF YOU WON'T.
UNDERSTOOD, PAIVA?
ONLY ONCE ...
OH...

MY, MY...
IT'S SEEMS LIKE AN ANNOYING FLY CAME TO PESTER US AGAIN...
HMPH
BUT ALL HIS SORT IS GOOD FOR IS TO HOLD YOUR HAND AND WHISPER YOU SWEET NOTHINGS, AM I RIGHT?
EH EH...
MISS PAIVA! WILL YOU EVER UNDERSTAND!
YOU MUSTN'T GO OUT IN YOUR NIGHTGOWN!
AH, SURE...
SURE ??
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
NO... NOT AT ALL. SHE JUST SAID THE PERSON WHO SENT HER CAMELLIAS EVERY DAY WAS DROPPING BY
SO...

AH ....!
HAS THIS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE...
I CAN HEAR THE CLICKING CASTANETS OF THE GYPSIES.
FINALLY
FOR THE FIRST TIME
NO... IT HASN'T... PAIVA, IT HASN'T.
SHOWED UP
TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM THIS PLACE!

AREN'T I AFRAID OF MAK NG THAT PERSON DO SOMETHING
SO OUTRA-GEOUS?

AAH
AREN'T I...

AAH
FINALLY, SOMEONE GOT OVER THAT OBSTA-CLE AND CAME FOR ME!

DESPITE LOOKING WEAK, HE'S SOMEONE WHO WILL LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD AND ADVANCE.
A PERSON LIKE HIM WILL NOT LOSE HEART
NO, I'M NOT.
A PERSON LIKE HIM

AAH
I CAN SEE THE BLUE SKY N THE DISTANCE.

AND A PERSON LIKE THIS
DEFINITELY
WON'T LEAVE THINGS N THIS OUT-RAGEOUS STATE.

WHERE IS ASLAN!
I HAVE SOMETHING I MUST DISCUSS WITH HIM THIS VERY NIGHT!
WE HAVE EVEN YET TO PREPARE YOUR QUAR...
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, ACCORDING TO OUR MASTER'S INSTRUCTIONS, THE OLD MASTER WOULD ONLY BE ARRIVING TOMORROW AT NOON.
W-WELCOME, YOU CAME HERE IN THIS SNOW!
ENOUGH!
OLD MASTER ?!
IT'S ME! OPEN THE GATE!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I CLEARLY WROTE IN THE LETTER I SENT YESTERDAY THAT I'D BE COMING TONIGHT!
HUM... HE TOLD US HE'D BE OUT TONIGHT
AND WOULDN'T BE COMING HOME.
THE YOUNG MASTER DIDN'T TELL US ANYTHING...
HOW STRANGE...
WHAT I WAS GOING TO TELL HIM TONIGHT IS THAT I'D BE TAKING HIM BACK HOME, EVEN IF I HAD TO DRAG HIM!
IN THE LETTERS HE TOLD ME TO DELIVER TOMORROW
THERE EVEN WAS ONE FOR THE OLD MASTER...
YES, HE DID SEE THAT LETTER THIS MORNING.

THE DOOR IS OPEN!
YOU COULDN'T HAVE.... SUCH A FOOLISH THING!
NO... HE COULDN'T
MASTER ALAN.
AH!
LIDEL-LE?!
THE DIARY ISN'T HERE!!
HIS GOWN NEATLY FOLDED ON TOP OF THE CHAIR
AND, OH, THE DESK'S KEY!
LIDELLE LIDELLE! REMEMBER THIS.
THIS WILL BECOME MY MOST IMPOR-TANT BOOK!

I'LL WAIT ONE HOUR, IF YOU ARE NOT HERE BY THEN...
IT'S ALRIGHT, YOU CAN GO.
THANK YOU. PLEASE WAIT HERE.
THERE ARE DOGS HOWL NG.
IS IT OPEN?
OR IS IT CLOSED?
MY PATH...

STRANGE QUITE WE RD.
AND PAIVA WAS WAY TOO CHEERFUL AFTER COMING BACK FROM THE OPERA.
WITH JUST A WHISPER OF HIS NAME.
THAT BOY CAME BACK
AH, AND GO GET THE GUNS.
LET THE DOGS OUT IN THE COURT-YARD.
WATCH OUR PREMIS-ES.
YES.
IF YOU SEE ANYONE SUSPI-CIOUS, SHOOT THEM DEAD IF YOU MUST.

ASLAN
I'M WAITING.
I'M WAITING!
JUST .. WAITING TO HEAR YOUR VOICE CALL-ING ME!
WAITING TO HEAR SOME THING...
ASL...
COME OVER HERE!

WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU DONE PRETENDING TO BE CALM?
WHAT HAS HAPPENED..
WAS THERE SOMETHING OUTSIDE?
IT SEEMS WE HAVE A RAT CRAWLING AROUND RIGHT NOW.
PAPA'S ROOM!
JUST A LITTLE MORE...
GUK ...

MY SPECIALITY IS CATCHING MY PREY ALIVE.
I DIDN'T KILL YOU, THINK OF THIS AS A GODSEND.
A MIS-TAKE!
DON'T MAKE A SOUND
UNTIL YOU'RE THERE.
I WON'T GIVE UP HOPE...
UNTIL THE VERY END!
NO...
EITHER WAY IS FINE...
WILL YOU COME QUIETLY OR WILL YOU THRASH ABOUT AND MAKE ME TIE YOUR ARMS AND LEGS? WHICH ONE WILL IT BE...

PA...
PAIVA ...
IF YOU'RE THERE, LET ME SEE YOU!
I'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU CAN'T COME WITH ME... BUT AT LEAST, ONE LAST GLANCE...
HE'S OVER HERE!! IS NO ONE AROUND ?!
OVER HERE!
PAIVA!

I'M TOGETHER WITH YOU, ASLAN!

DON'T SHOOT! YOU'LL HIT PAIVA!
ASLAN!
BE... CAREFUL ...

THERE'S NO WAY OF MAKING IT UP TO THE VISCOUNT IF WE KILL HIM.
GET THE DOGS BACK TOGETHER. WE CAN QUIETLY SURROUND AND CAPTURE THEM.

BUT YOU'RE HURT!
RUN! THERE'S A CARRIAGE WAITING OUTSIDE THAT GATE!

NO, DON'T THINK ABOUT THAT!
IF WE'RE CAUGHT... FATHER WILL BE CALLED OUT, MOTHER WILL BE SHAMED.

RIGHT NOW
THINK JUST ABOUT BREAKING THROUGH!

THE GATE...
AH!
OH NO...!

BUT I CAN'T... HELP YOU.
I'LL TRY.

THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS CLIMB OVER THE WALL.
IT'S CONFUSED BECAUSE OF MY SMELL. WE MUST DO SOMETHING RIGHT NOW!

BE QUIET, THE DOG...

PAMA ...!
LEND ME A SHOULDER.
スルリ
I COULD CLIMB WALLS LIKE THIS ALL BY MYSELF IN THE PAST.
IT MIGHT HURT.
IS THAT ALRIGHT?
YOU'VE STARTED TO SHINE.
O...K!
YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE YOURSELF NOW!
MY SKYLARK!
FLY! TO THE SKY!

THERE!
THEY'RE OVER THERE!
IS THERE A DRIVER? YOU CAN'T DRIVE WITH THIS WOUND!
THE CARRIAGE IS IN THAT FOREST.
My son is waiting I'm going back
THE CAR-RIAGE
ISN'T HERE!!

TRACK THEM DOWN... AND KILL THEM!
BOTH OF THEM!
THEY WENT OUTSIDE THE MANSION GROUNDS ?!
THERE IS NO WAY BACK NOW... YOU OUGHT TO DIE TOGETHER!
HA HA HA HA HA
FU HA HA HA HA HA
FU

WHY?
THEN...
My son is waiting. I'm going back.
HE SAID HE WOULD UN-CONDIT ON ALLY WAIT ONE HOUR.
DID HE HEAR THE GUNSHOTS AND GET SCARED?
NO.
BECAUSE HE WAS DEFYING THE MAR QUIS?
NO, HE WAS SCARED FROM THE VERY BEGIN NING!
THERE WA- SOMEONE HE NEEDED O PROTECT WAITING!
BE CAUSE...
BECAUSE HE HAD A CHILD
I'LL DO THAT TOO...
PAPA, I WILL...
PROTECT YOU!

TO THE STATION.
THEN WE'LL CATCH THE FIRST TRAIN TO SWITZERLAND.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
THERE'S THIS PHYSICIAN I KNOW, FROM THE SANATORIUM NEAR LAC LÉMAN.
I'VE SENT ALL MY THINGS THERE ALREADY.
FROM THERE, I PLAN ON GOING TO TYROL.

YAH!
WHO THE HECK!

I HEARD ABOUT IT YESTERDAY NIGHT... AT MIDNIGHT.
YEAH, I STOPPED BY ASLAN'S PLACE JUST NOW.
DID YOU HEAR?
GOING! GIMME A MINUTE!
SORRY TO TELL YOU
BUT IT CAME AS A SURPRISE TO ME TOO! LIDELLE CAME OVER TO TELL ME.
DON'T TELL ME YOU DID NOTHING TO STOP HIM WHEN HE CAME OVER HERE!!
DARN YOU!
.....
IF YOU KNEW WHERE HE WAS GOING, WOULD YOU TELL HIS FATHER?
IF YOU...
I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS THERE FOR THAT.
IF I DID, I WOULD AT LEAST HAVE TRIED TO FIND OUT HIS DESTINATION...
HE WAS PROBABLY PREPARING FOR IT.
THREE DAYS AGO I CAME ACROSS ASLAN IN THE TRAIN STATION.

THERE IS NO POINT IN SAYING ANY-THING NOW.
HE CHOSE THIS HIM-SELF.
ASLAN
MASTER ASLAN...
HE MUST HAVE FOUND SOMEONE WORTH TRADING ALL HE GOT IN THIS LIFE FOR.
YEAH, HE ISN'T STUPID.
BECAUSE HE DID THIS WITH FULL KNOWL-EDGE
OF HOW EVERYONE AROUND HIM FELT...

WOULD YOU CHOOSE HER ALL THE SAME?
EVEN IF SHE WERE A SERVANT
EVEN IF SHE WERE
IT'S NOT SO MUCH THAT THEY HAD SOME KIND OF LOVE PACT GOING ON AND DID THIS TO CARRY ON WITH THEIR ROMANCE
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
THEN I'LL GIVE UP...
IT'S JUST HIS BEING HIS USUAL PROACTIVE SELF, I THINK.
HE TOOK A STEP FORWARD AND CHALLENGED THE FUTURE.
I HOPE YOU'LL BE HAPPY WITH HER...

WATTS
LOUIS-RENÉ
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE I LAST HAD A WORD WITH YOU.

THEN, IN MARCH OF LAST YEAR, MY SON, SERGE, WAS BORN.

IN AUGUST OF THE YEAR BEFORE THE LAST, MY WIFE GOT PREGNANT, AND WITH THE BLESSING OF THE VILLAGERS, WE OFFICIALLY MARRIED.

Papa

Be careful!

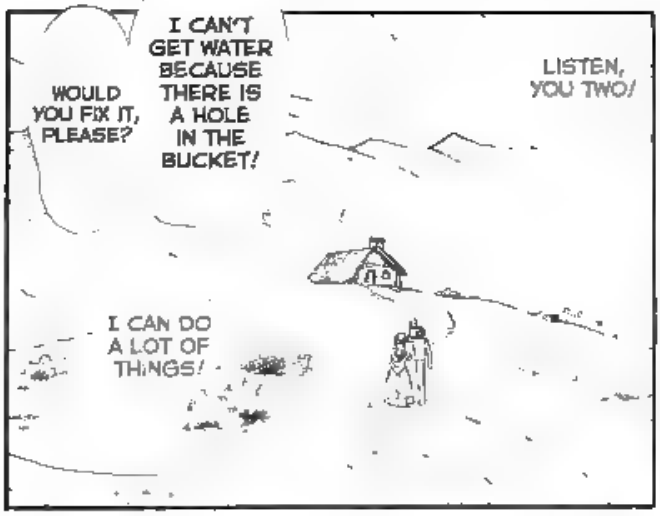
YOU'RE SO STRONG, SERGE!

YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE WITH MAMA?

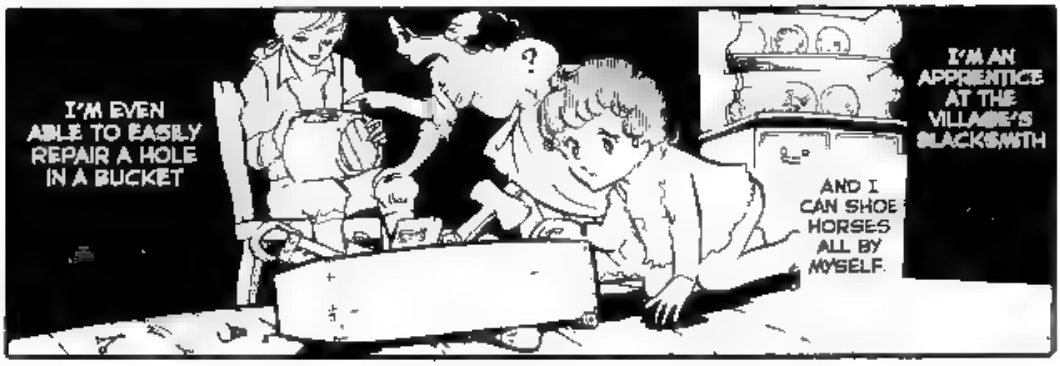
WELCOME HOME, ASLAN!

MY SERGE, WITH HIS BRIGHT, SERENE DARK EYES, RAISED IN THE MIDDLE OF NATURE

I EVEN THINK EVERYTHING HAPPENED BECAUSE OF THIS CHILD, WHO WAS SURE TO BE BORN ONE DAY.


WOULD YOU FIX IT, PLEASE?
I CAN'T GET WATER BECAUSE THERE IS A HOLE IN THE BUCKET!
LISTEN, YOU TWO!
I CAN DO A LOT OF THINGS!

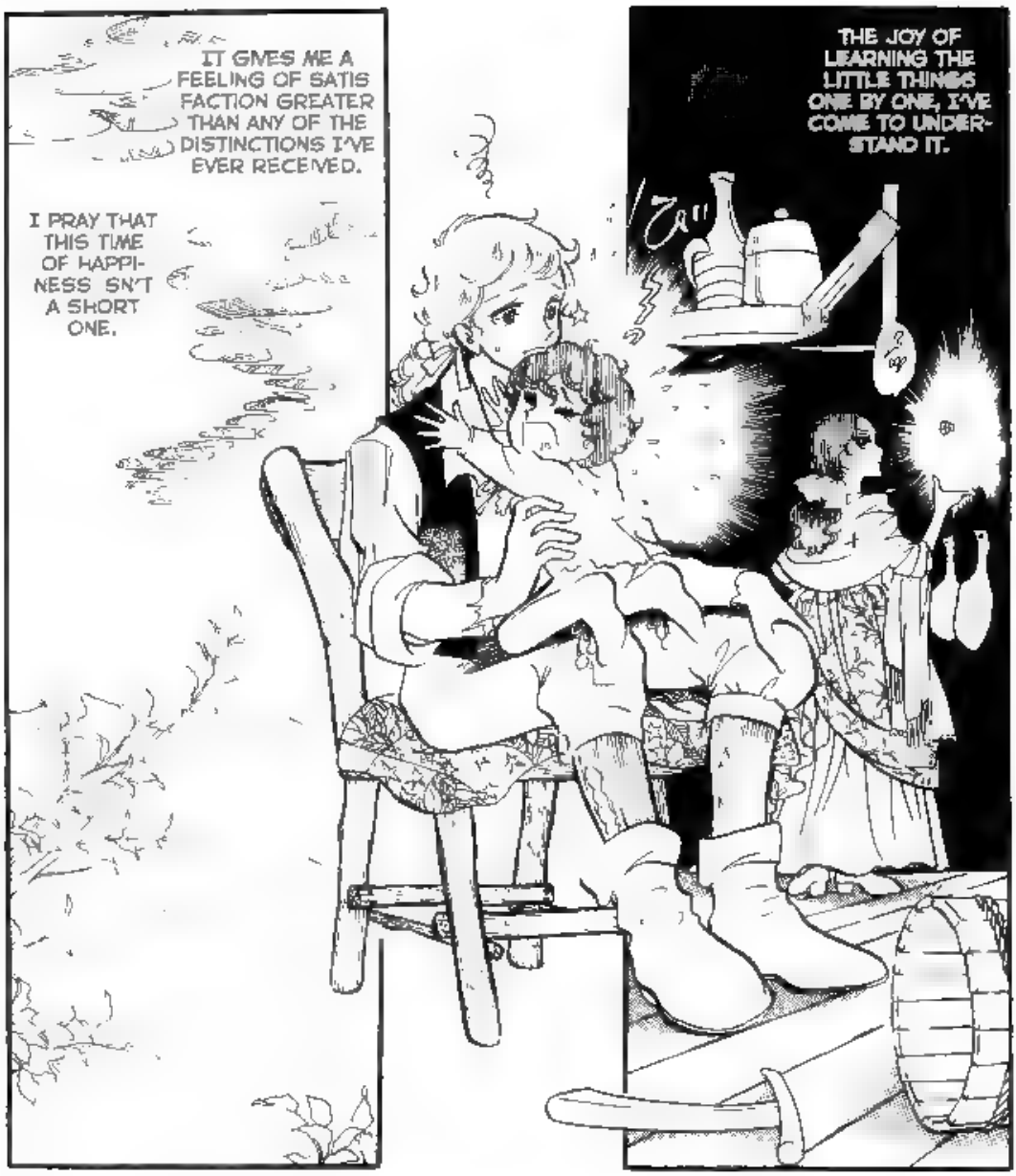
YES, I'M TAKING THE SHEEP OUT TO GRAZE IN THE AFTER-NOON.
THE BLACK-SMITH CLOSED UP THE SHOP FOR TODAY ALREADY?


I'M EVEN ABLE TO EASILY REPAIR A HOLE IN A BUCKET
I'M AN APPRENTICE AT THE VILLAGE'S BLACKSMITH
AND I CAN SHOE HORSES ALL BY MYSELF.

WHAT I LEARNED IN BOOKS IS OF NO USE AT ALL TO ME HERE.
EXCES-SIVE!
PAIVA!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO, THEN?!
PAIVA, THAT'S...

NO!
DON'T PUT THAT IN YOUR MOUTH!
BUT THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF THINGS I DON'T KNOW

OUT WITH IT!



1868, MAY 11TH

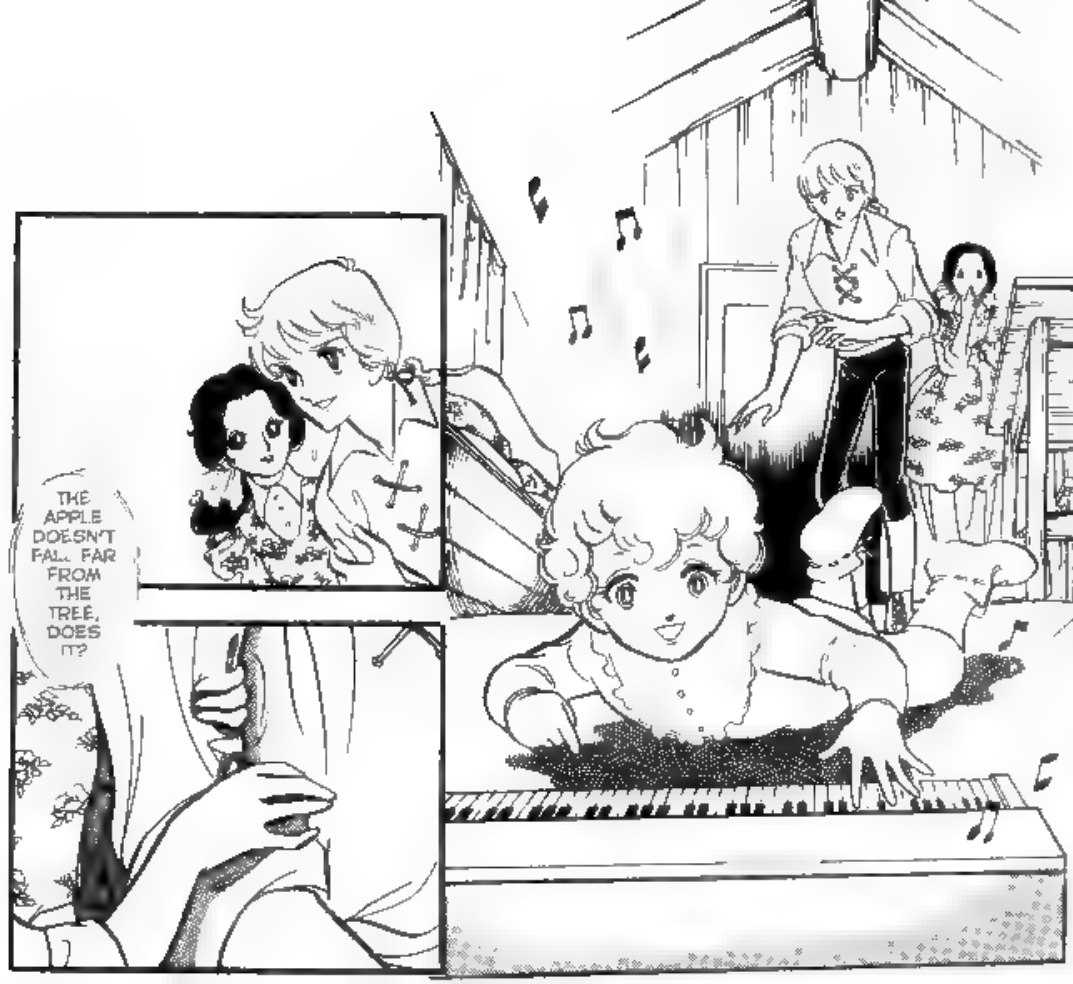
A YOUNG FATHER WHO WILL SOON BE TURNING 21, ASLAN BATTOUR

I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO MY PARENTS YET

P.S. PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR NOT INCLUDING MY ADDRESS IN THIS LETTER

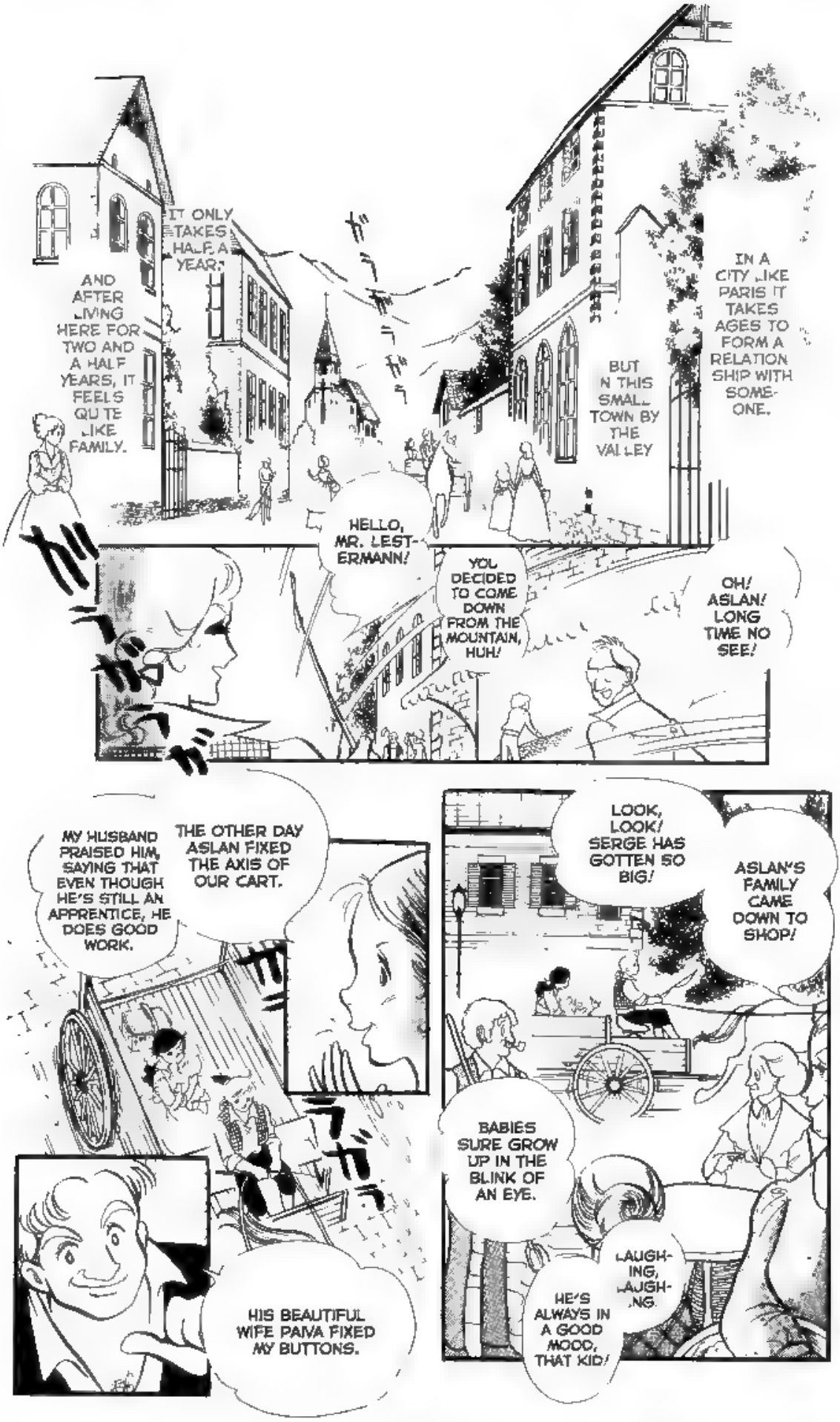
ONE YEAR PASSED SINCE THE TIME I TOLD MY FRIENDS THAT I DIDN'T EXPECT-- NO, THAT I REFUSED A REPLY TO IT.
THIS WAS THE SINGLE ONE WAY LETTER I SENT IN FEBRUARY.
MY NOT TELLING ANYONE MY ADDRESS
COME HOME! BREAKFAST IS READY!
WAS FOR THE SAKE OF NOT BRINGING ANY CONFUSION OR TEMPTATION INTO
MY NICELY DETACHED LIFE IN A FARAWAY PLACE.
THIS LIFE WE LEAD...
IN A HUT BY THE MOUNTAIN'S SLOPE THEY RAISE SEVERAL SHEEP
AND GROW VEGETABLES IN A SMALL FIELD IN THEIR FRONT GARDEN
LIVING HERE ARE A KING, A QUEEN AND A PRINCE

KIDS ARE SO STRANGE.
I WONDER WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT HITTING KEYS THAT MAKE NO SOUND AND SINGING ALONG.
PLAY WITH THAT, YES?
HEY, SERGE.
IF YOU FEEL LIKE BEING UP
IT'S A SIMPLE ONE, BUT EVERYTHING WAS DONE BY THE FATHER HERE. I BUILT IT UP FROM NOTHING.
SOMETHING THAT GENUINELY BELONGS ONLY TO ME
SHH, WAIT!
YOU'RE GOING DOWN TO THE VILLAGE TODAY, RIGHT? BUY ME A ROLL OF WOOL, WILL YOU?
PON
PON
PIN!
PON
PAN
PON
PIN
PON
DID YOU HEAR IT? LISTEN CAREFULLY, THE KEYS HAVE SOUND!!
HUH?
WHAT IS IT?
SOUND IS COMING OUT!


THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE, DOES IT?

I STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON THAT DREAM
PAIVA...
?
YOU LIKE PIANO SO MUCH YOU HAD TO BRING THIS TRAINING KEYBOARD JUST BEFORE RUNNING AWAY.
ARE YOU HAPPY? THIS IS THE KIND OF THING YOU DO.

IT'S NO TIME TO BE PLAYING, THOUGH, SERGE!
I HAVE TO GO TO TOWN, SO EAT YOUR BREAK-FAST.
ABU?
I LIKE TH S SIDE OF YOU, ASLAN.


AND AFTER LIVING HERE FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS, IT FEELS QUITE LIKE FAMILY.
IT ONLY TAKES HALF A YEAR.
IN A CITY LIKE PARIS IT TAKES AGES TO FORM A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE.
BUT IN THIS SMALL TOWN BY THE VALLEY
HELLO, MR. LESTERMANN!
YOU DECIDED TO COME DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN, HUH!
OH! ASLAN! LONG TIME NO SEE!
MY HUSBAND PRAISED HIM, SAYING THAT EVEN THOUGH HE'S STILL AN APPRENTICE, HE DOES GOOD WORK.
THE OTHER DAY ASLAN FIXED THE AXIS OF OUR CART.
HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE PAIVA FIXED MY BUTTONS.
LOOK, LOOK! SERGE HAS GOTTEN SO BIG!
ASLAN'S FAMILY CAME DOWN TO SHOP!
BABIES SURE GROW UP IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
HE'S ALWAYS IN A GOOD MOOD, THAT KID!
LAUGHING, LAUGHING.

I'D LIKE MY HUSBAND TO TAKE A LEAF OUT OF HIS BOOK.
ISN'T IT GREAT? ALL HE EVER THINKS ABOUT IS HIS WIFE AND CHILD.
YEAH!
HE WON'T TELL US A WORD ABOUT THAT, THOUGH!
I HEARD HE WAS A STUDENT SO SMART HE COULD GRADUATE IN ANYTHING HE WANTED!
HE ALWAYS DOES ANY WORK HE'S UP TO WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE.
THAT'S RIGHT
I NEARLY FORGOT!
HM, DARLING, IF ASLAN IS HERE
THEN SHOULDN'T YOU BE GOING TO TRULLI'S CAFE?
HE'LL BE PLAYING THE PIANO THERE ONCE HE'S DONE SHOPPING!!
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE GOSSIPING!
HELLO, FATHER
LITTLE SERGE, YOU HAVE GOTTEN SO BIG! I'M YOUR GODFATHER.
OH, HELLO THERE! DOING YOUR USUAL ROUNDS, ARE YOU?
Posthaus

I'M SURE YOUR FATHER WOULD COME TO ACCEPT THIS.
PLEASE TELL THEM SOON. IF HE WERE TO KNOW ABOUT HIS GRANDSON
NO
NOT YET.
HAVE YOU TOLD YOUR PARENTS ALREADY?
BY THE WAY, ASLAN
OH, AND YOU TOO, FATHER
YOU REALLY ARE HERE!
ASLAN
HELLO, MR. TRULLI! I WAS ABOUT TO GO TO YOUR CAFE.
THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER ME. THIS IS THE LEAST I CAN DO.
ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY TODAY?
OH, I'M SO HAPPY!
AHAH, HE HAS QUITE THE FAME AROUND TOWN.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS.
I WANT TO SEE LITTLE SERGE!
IS HE HERE YET?
NO?

CLAP
EVERY TIME I COME DOWN TO THE TOWN, I HAVE AN AUDIENCE WAITING.
CLAP CLAP
THEIR WARM ENCOURAGEMENT, THEIR AFFECTIONATE HANDSHAKES
TODAY SERGE IS PLAYING TOO, HUH!
HE'S GOING TO TAKE AFTER HIS FATHER AND BECOME A GREAT PIANIST LIKE HIM!
THIS, AND MY SON SERGE
AH, ASLAN!
OUR PRESIDENT!
HEY, BEAUTIFUL MISSUS! TAKE A SEAT OVER HERE!
HEY, YOU.
BE A GOOD BOY AND LISTEN.
IS MY ONE PRIDE.
PIANO! LIKE! LIKE PIANO!
HAHA, THAT'S QUITE THE ORNAMENT YOU'VE GOT THERE!

BRING ME YOUR TORN CLOTHES, YOUR OPEN SEAMS AND YOUR FALLEN BUTTONS!
WELL, EVERY-BODY! I'LL BE MEND-ING YOUR THINGS IN THE MEAN-TIME.
Me first

*TN: SCHUBERT APPARENTLY WAS APPRECIATED MOSTLY BY JUST A SMALL CIRCLE OF ADMIRERS WHEN ALIVE, AND GAINED WIDER FAME ONLY AFTER HIS DEATH

ザワザワ
ワイワイ
SERGE!
AAHH!
SERGE, THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
YOU'LL FALL!
SER ......
......
SERGE ...!
IS HE OK?! HE'S NOT CRYING!
LITTLE SERGE!
HOW DREADFUL! DID HE HIT HIS HEAD?!
A... MU!
W...WHAT! THE PIANO?
AREN'T YOU IN PAIN?
THERE'S A LUMP ON YOUR HEAD!

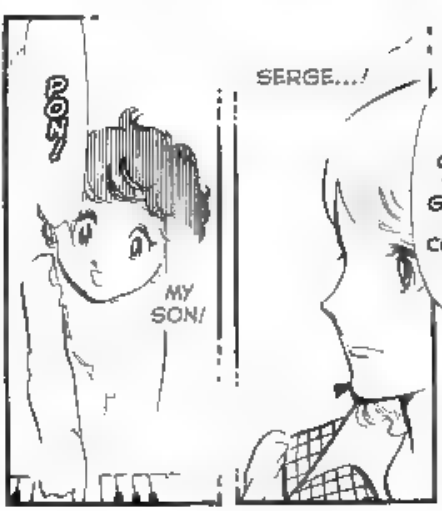
HAHAHA
HAHAHA
HAHA
HAHAHA

AHAH, YOU REALLY HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL WITH THESE TWO, MISSUS!
HE'S BARELY TWO AND HE ALREADY HAS A THING FOR THE PIANO!

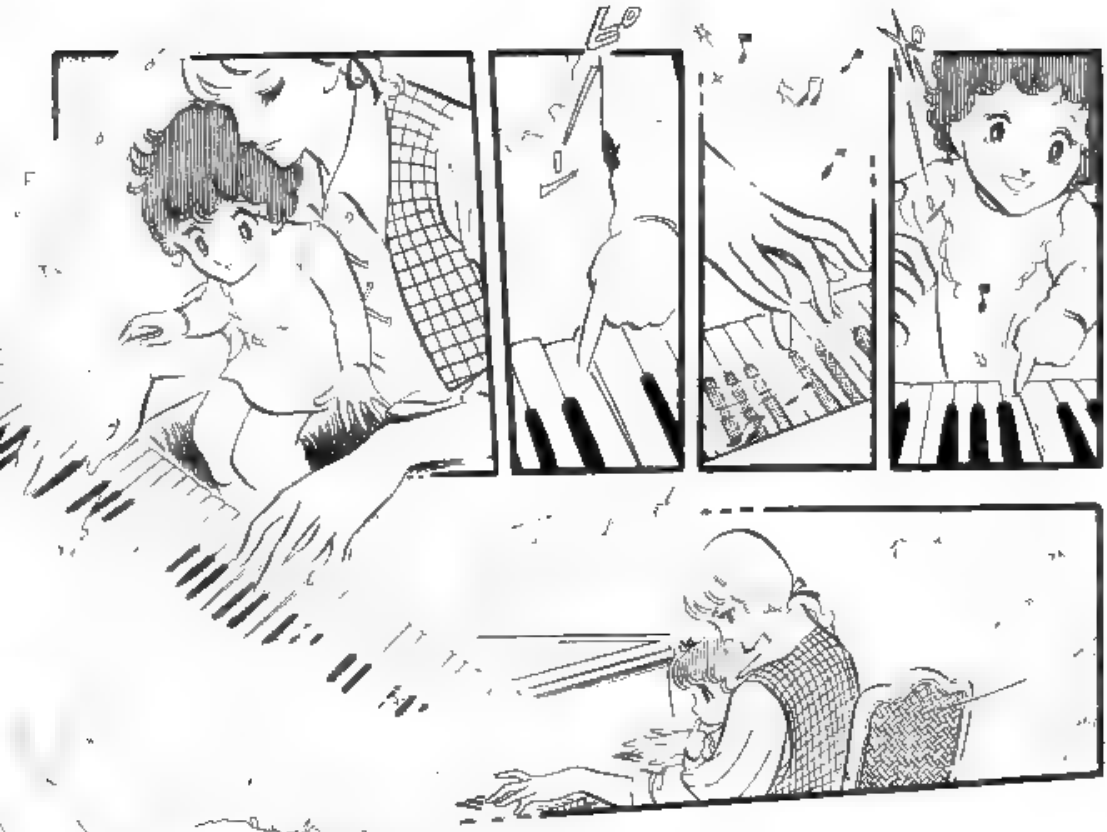
PON
PIN
PAN
PON

AH ...
HUH
YOU SHOULD SEND HIM TO A GOOD SCHOOL, PAPA ASLAN!
AH, I BET HE WILL BECOME A GREAT MUSICIAN WHEN HE GROWS UP.

THAT IS SOUND
THIS IS A MELODY.

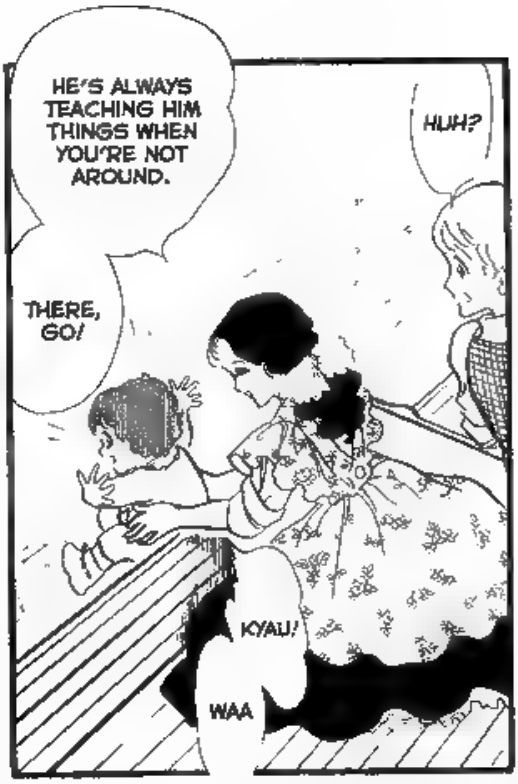

PON!
MY SON!
SERGE...!

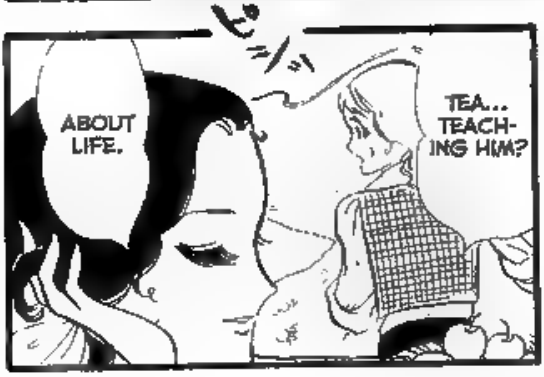
NO, HE NEEDS TO LEARN HOW TO READ A MUSIC SHEET FIRST.
IN ANY CASE, HE SHOULD GO TO THE VIENNA CONSERVATORY!
BUY HIM A PIANO



THIS DAY WAS THE FIRST TIME SERGE PLAYED THE PIANO.
A DAY THAT SHOULD BE CELEBRATED!
MY SON, I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS DAY

カラカラカラカラ
コチョッ
STARE
OH NO! IT'S THAT ECCENTRIC OLD MAN, GIUSEPPE!
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, THAT'S DANGEROUS!
AH...! HOLD! HOLD THERE!
ガアガアガア
WAAU!
IT'S OK, ASLAN.
GIUSEPPE IS SERGE'S BEST FRIEND.
AH... OOPS!
IT'S CRUSTY OLD GIUSEPPE.
HEY THERE, SERGE! DON'T BARK LIKE A DOG.
WAUU
WAU!
GLARE


HE'S ALWAYS TEACHING HIM THINGS WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND.
HUH?
THERE, GO!
KYAU!
WAA


ABOUT LIFE.
TEA... TEACHING HIM?

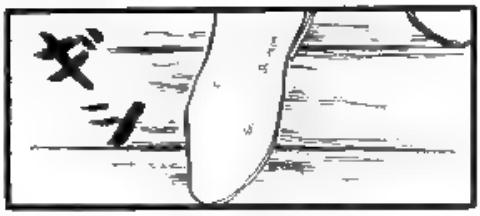
BUT THEN SHE GOT TOGETHER WITH SOMEONE FROM THE TOWN, AND HE'S BEEN ALL BY HIMSELF EVER SINCE.
I WAS TOLD HE USED TO LIVE WITH HIS DAUGHTER
LIFE?!

SO HE ALWAYS TALKS TO SERGE
AS IF HE WERE ANOTHER ADULT.
AND I'M SURE SERGE IS ALWAYS ATTENTIVELY LISTENING TO THE TALES OF HIS LIFE.

I THINK I WENT THROUGH A WHOLE LOT OF THINGS
THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE HARDSHIPS OF LIFE ARE NO-BODIES.
HEY, SERGE
BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT LIKE THIS, IT FEELS THAT NOTHING HAPPENED
THE PROOF OF THAT IS THAT THE SUNSET GLOW IN THE MOUNTAINS HASN'T CHANGED IN ALL THESE YEARS, NOT EVEN A LITTLE.
MAYBE I'LL WRITE A LETTER TO MY PARENTS WHEN WINTER COMES
AND THIS TIME I'LL INCLUDE AN ADDRESS...
MY NOW-OLD DIARY
SOMEDAY I WILL GIVE IT TO SERGE
WHEN HE'S BIGGER AND LEARNS HOW TO READ

1870
JANUARY
SERGE IS 2 YEARS AND 10 MONTHS OLD.
I WANTED TO GET A PIANO BEFORE WINTER CAME, THOUGH.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GO DOWN TO THE TOWN ANY MORE
I HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE WINTER SEASON.
SNOW.

A THING LIKE THAT REALLY IS...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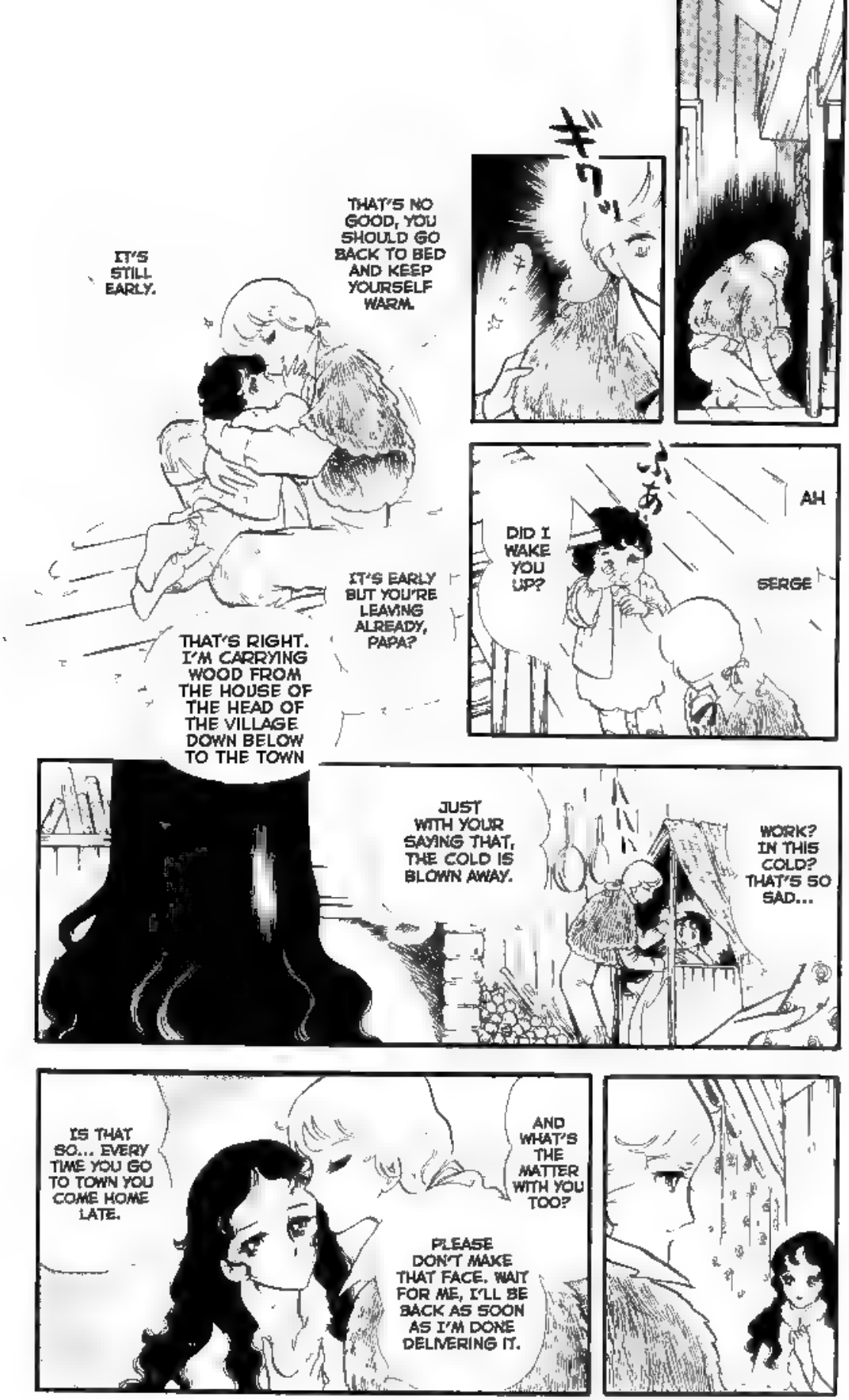
NNGH

IN THE PAST, I SIMPLY PLAYED AND THOUGHT NOTHING OF IT
BUT NOW WITH LIVING EXPENSES, I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE THE EARNINGS IT WOULD TAKE TO OBTAIN ONE.

THIS FEELING ...
HAVE I BEEN WORKING TOO MUCH?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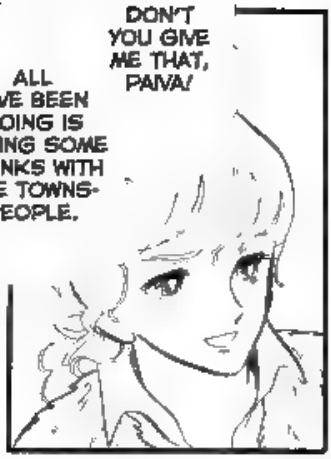
IT'S STILL EARLY.
THAT'S NO GOOD, YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO BED AND KEEP YOURSELF WARM.
ふあ
AH
DID I WAKE YOU UP?
SERGE
IT'S EARLY BUT YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY, PAPA?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M CARRYING WOOD FROM THE HOUSE OF THE HEAD OF THE VILLAGE DOWN BELOW TO THE TOWN
JUST WITH YOUR SAYING THAT, THE COLD IS BLOWN AWAY.
WORK? IN THIS COLD? THAT'S SO SAD...
IS THAT SO... EVERY TIME YOU GO TO TOWN YOU COME HOME LATE.
AND WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU TOO?
PLEASE DON'T MAKE THAT FACE. WAIT FOR ME, I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I'M DONE DELIVERING IT.

THAT IS A LIE!
TODAY I...


ALL I'VE BEEN DOING IS HAVING SOME DRINKS WITH THE TOWNS-PEOPLE.
DON'T YOU GIVE ME THAT, PAIVA!

LAST TIME I WENT TO THE VILLAGE TO SHOP I CAME ACROSS THE OWNER OF THE CAFÉ
AND SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU BECAUSE YOU LOOKED STRAINED AND WEARY!
PAIVA!

WHY DO YOU DO THIS
ASLAN!
YOU'VE BEEN HIDING HOW TIRED YOU ARE BECAUSE YOU KNOW I'D WORRY ABOUT YOU.
THIS DRINKING THING IS JUST A LIE, YOU WERE RESTING IN THE CAFÉ...
YOU'VE BEEN OVER-WORKING YOURSELF, HAVEN'T YOU!
PAIVA!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MINE! YOUR BODY, YOUR SOUL... EVERYTHING!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO TO OTHER PEOPLE!
IT'S MY PLIGHT IN LIFE TO WORRY FOR YOU.

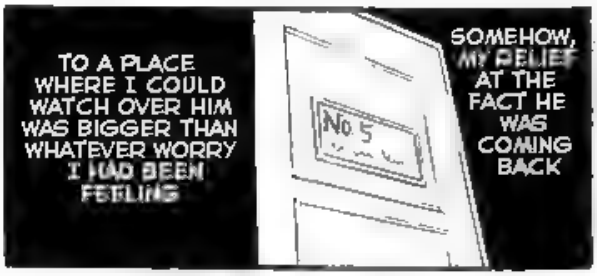
HEY... SERGE IS WATCHING US.
I'M OFF.
I'M SORRY, I'M JUST WORRIED BECAUSE YOU WORK TOO MUCH...
ASLAN...
I'M GOING TO BUY SOME JERKY AND BACON ON MY WAY BACK.
IF I COME A BIT LATE, IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT, SO DON'T WORRY.
MY MOTHER WAS LIKE THAT
ONCE I'M DONE WITH THE WINTER PREPARATIONS WE WON'T BE GOING DOWN TO TOWN ANY MORE.
UNTIL SPRING COMES, THE FAMILY CAN SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME TOGETHER ♡
BEFORE SHE STARTED COUGHING BLOOD AND DIED.
SHE WORKED AND WORKED....

ASLAN. . YOU...
ARE REALLY DEDICATED TO SERGE, AREN'T YOU?
YOU PROBABLY MADE YOUR RESOLUTION IN LAST YEAR'S MARCH, WHEN SERGE BECAME TWO YEARS OLD.
YOUR DREAM HAS BEEN FLYING HIGH EVER SINCE.
YOU TOOK LITTLE SERGE BY THE HAND AND WENT TO SEE THE TOWN'S MUSIC TEACHER
"SERGE,
YOU'LL GO TO THE SCHOOL IN ARLES THAT PAPA WENT TO, RIGHT?"
"IT WAS THE STEAD OF MY WONDERFUL YOUTH.
YOU TOO WILL MEET GOOD FRIENDS AND GOOD TEACHERS FOR SURE."

AND WORKING THE WHOLE DAY IN THE TOWN
AND SO, WE GOT INTO THE HABIT OF GOING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN TWICE A WEEK, LEAVING SERGE AT THE MUSIC TEACHER'S HOUSE
Ga-ga Genius!!
HEY, PAIVA
I WANT TO SAVE SOME MONEY.
SUDDENLY, THE MONEY WE EARNED IN THE TOWN BECAME MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR US, LIVING THE IN MOUNTAIN.
OH, WHAT FOR? YOU NEVER WORRIED ABOUT THAT BEFORE.
HM, I WAS JUST THINKING THE THREE OF US COULD GO ON A TRIP.
BUT I UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS GOING ON
WHAT YOU WANTED WASN'T SUCH A LITTLE COMFORT .

I'LL BRING HOME SOME HUGE SWEETS!
NO, IT'S DANGER-OUS!
ASLAN!
YES! COME NOW, DON'T SAY IT IN SUCH A DEJECTED TONE.
I'm hyped about it!
IT PAYS REALLY WELL!
WHAT, YOU'RE WORKING AS A DOCKER?!
ALL SUMMER LONG?!
HE JUST LEFT FOR A FAR AWAY CANAL
WITHOUT HEARING ANY OF MY PLEAS.
WHERE EVERY WEEK I KEPT WAITING ON HIM, WONDERING IF HE WAS COMING BACK OR NOT.
THAT WAS A WAY TOO LONG SUMMER
HE SURE DOES! HE'LL LISTEN TO YOU PLAY WHEN HE COMES HOME.
DOES HE KNOW I PLAY THE PIANO?
WHEN IS PAPA COMING BACK?
MAMAN
HEY, MAMAN

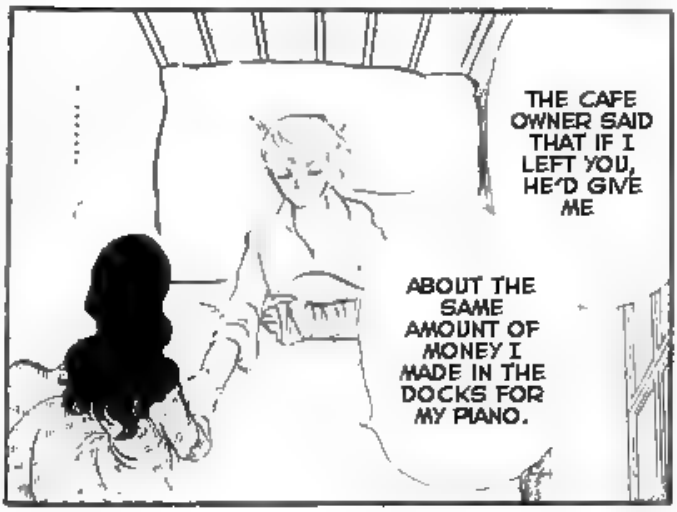
MAMAN, ARE YOU CRYING ?

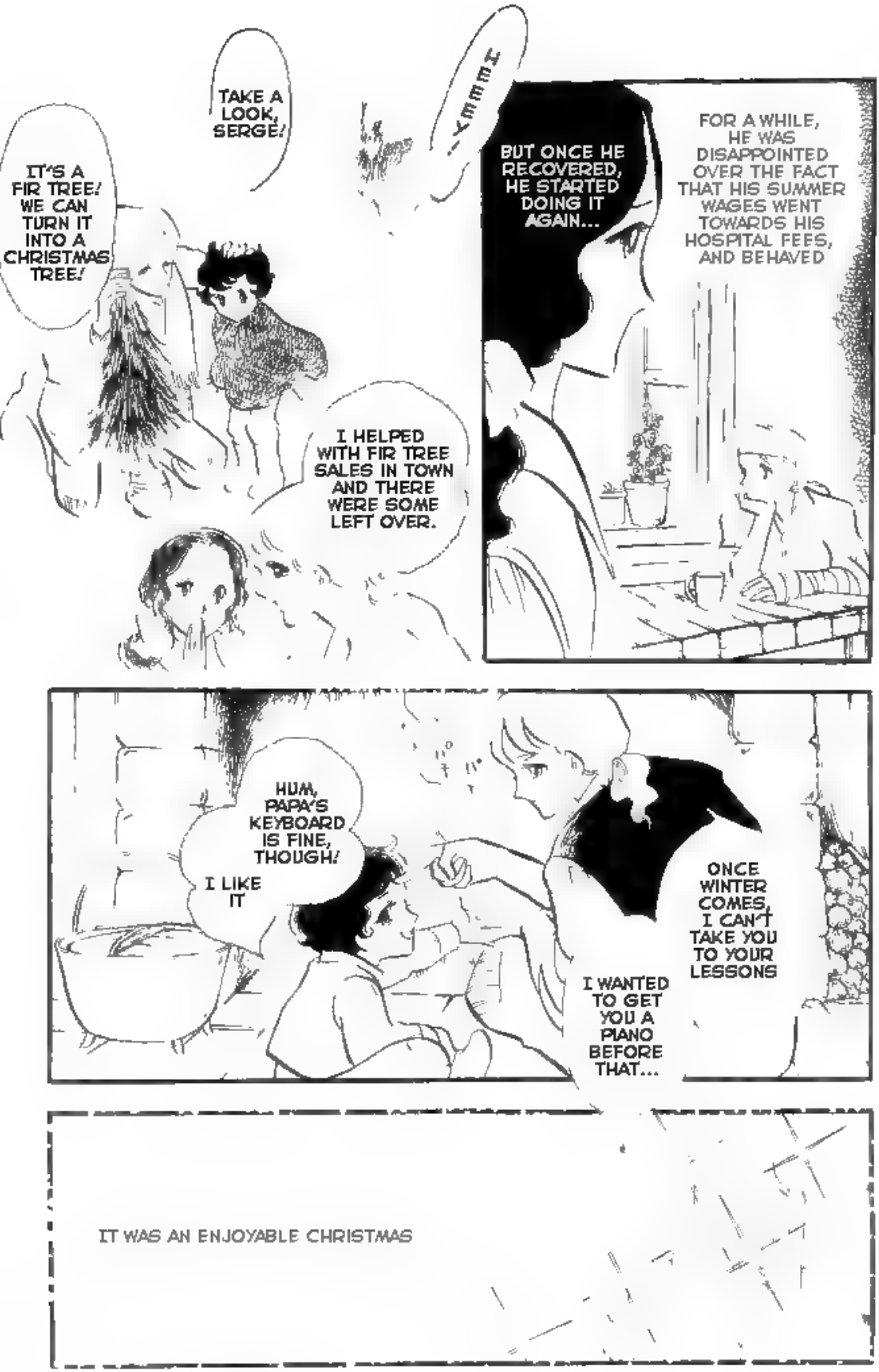

TO A PLACE WHERE I COULD WATCH OVER HIM WAS BIGGER THAN WHATEVER WORRY I HAD BEEN FEELING
No 5
SOMEHOW, MY RELIEF AT THE FACT HE WAS COMING BACK

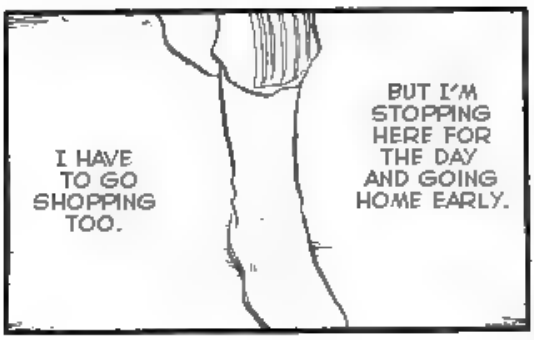
I'M SORRY ...

AND THEN, IN SEPTEMBER
I RECEIVED A LETTER SAYING HE HAD GOT HURT AND WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.

BUT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO DO THAT, NOW DID YOU?
YOU KNEW YOU COULD GET ENOUGH MONEY FOR YOUR PIANO


.....
THE CAFE OWNER SAID THAT IF I LEFT YOU, HE'D GIVE ME
ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT OF MONEY I MADE IN THE DOCKS FOR MY PIANO.


IT'S A FIR TREE! WE CAN TURN IT INTO A CHRISTMAS TREE!
TAKE A LOOK, SERGE!
I HELPED WITH FIR TREE SALES IN TOWN AND THERE WERE SOME LEFT OVER.
-Ymmm
BUT ONCE HE RECOVERED, HE STARTED DOING IT AGAIN...
FOR A WHILE, HE WAS DISAPPOINTED OVER THE FACT THAT HIS SUMMER WAGES WENT TOWARDS HIS HOSPITAL FEES, AND BEHAVED
HUM, PAPA'S KEYBOARD IS FINE, THOUGH!
I LIKE IT
ONCE WINTER COMES, I CAN'T TAKE YOU TO YOUR LESSONS
I WANTED TO GET YOU A PIANO BEFORE THAT...
IT WAS AN ENJOYABLE CHRISTMAS


I HAVE TO GO SHOPPING TOO.
BUT I'M STOPPING HERE FOR THE DAY AND GOING HOME EARLY.

SERGE IS BETTER THAN THEM THOUGH
A CHILD IS PLAYING THE PIANO

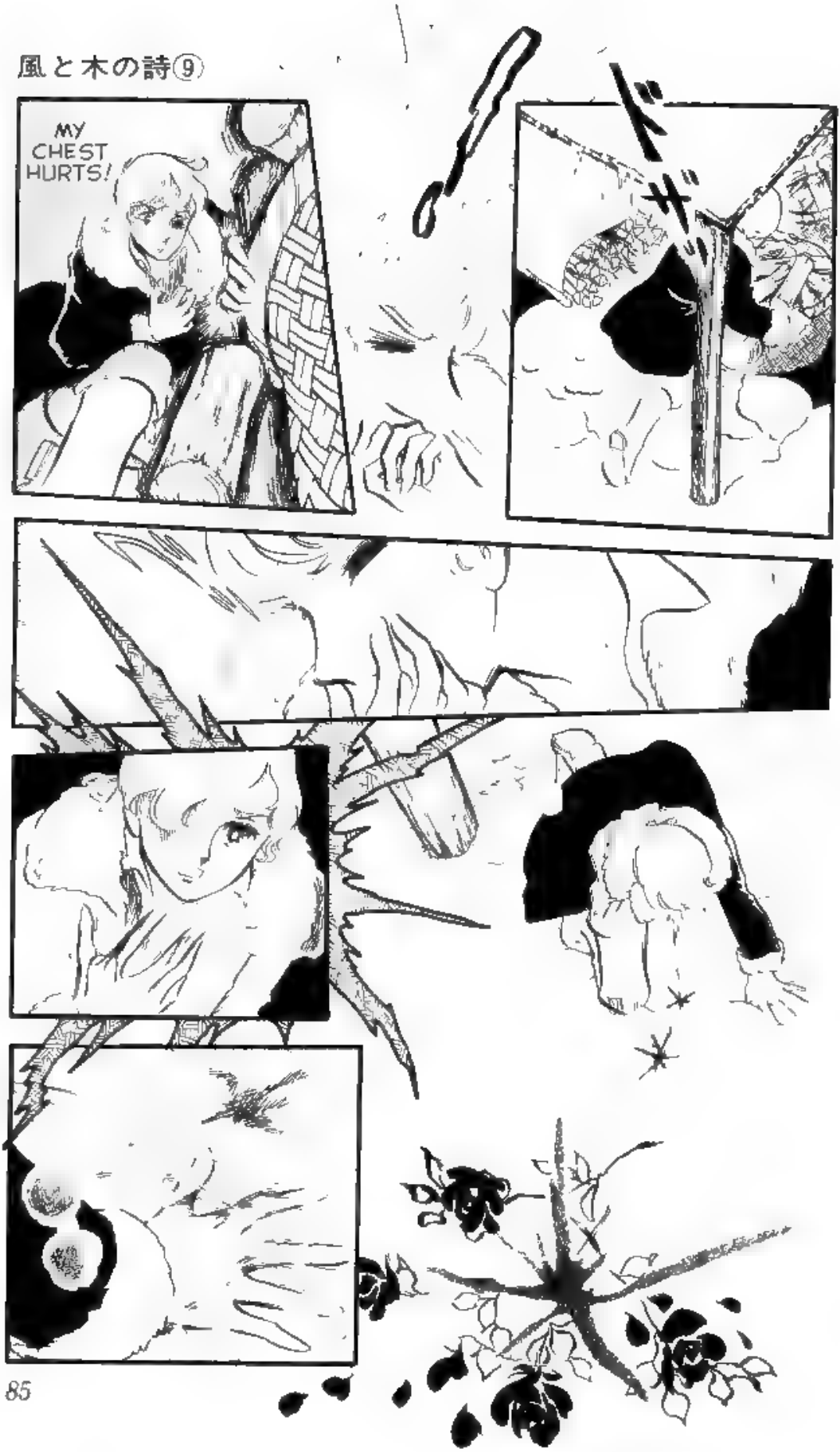
A BIG HOUSE

AS USUAL, I TOOK A FIREWOOD-CARRYING JOB

THESE AREN'T EVEN THAT HEAVY...
HERE WE GO!

REALLY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME TODAY!

AAH....


MY CHEST HURTS!
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はぁはぁ
... A RELAPSE!

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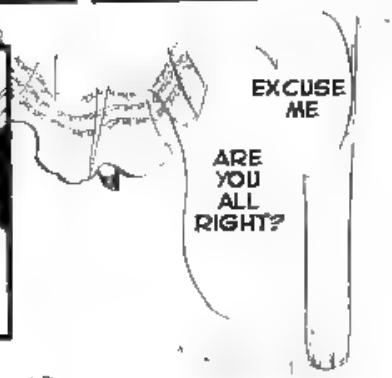
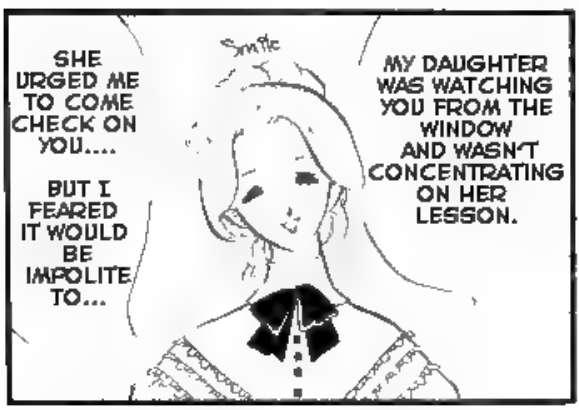
!


EXCUSE ME
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?


SHE URGED ME TO COME CHECK ON YOU....
BUT I FEARED IT WOULD BE IMPOLITE TO...
Smile
MY DAUGHTER WAS WATCHING YOU FROM THE WINDOW AND WASN'T CONCENTRATING ON HER LESSON.

ザッ

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT!
YOU OUGHT TO GET THAT TREATED. LET'S TAKE CARE OF IT, YES?
AND PUT SOME OINTMENT ON IT!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! YOU HAVE BLOOD ON YOUR CLOTHES ...
AH ...
NOT AT ALL!
I JUST CUT MY MOUTH A LITTLE WHEN I TRIPPED OVER THE ROOT OF THAT TREE OVER THERE.

I FEEL GUILTY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER KINDNESS...
MOREOVER, I DON'T WANT PAVIA HEARING ABOUT THIS.

.....

THERE'S A BENCH IN THE SHED, CLEAR THE SNOW AND ENTER.

...OH!

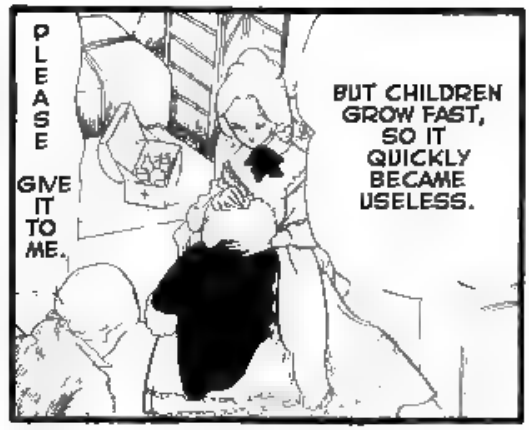
A PIANO FOR CHILDREN?! WAS IT CUSTOM MADE, I WONDER?

OH, THAT? WE HAD IT MADE WHEN OUR DAUGHTER WAS THREE.
IT'S JUST A TOY COMPARED TO THE REAL ONES, BUT IT MAKES A FINE SOUND.

THIS IS ....!

PLEASE, WOULD YOU AT LEAST LEND IT TO ME FOR THE WINTER?!
I MEAN ...
WHAT AM I SAYING!

HUH?


PLEASE GIVE IT TO ME.
BUT CHILDREN GROW FAST, SO IT QUICKLY BECAME USELESS.

AH, YOU...
NOT TO BE ABLE TO WORK ANYMORE AFTER THIS WINTER
AH, I MIGHT ...
I'LL DO MY BEST TO REPAY YOU SOMEHOW!
IF ALL IT'S DOING RIGHT NOW IS JUST SITTING IN THIS SHED ...
PLEASE!
IF YOU WOULD ...

ALL RIGHT, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.
YOU HAVE A SMALL CHILD, DON'T YOU?

YES! WHAT EVER IT IS!
IN EXCHANGE, WILL YOU ACCEPT A REQUEST FROM ME?

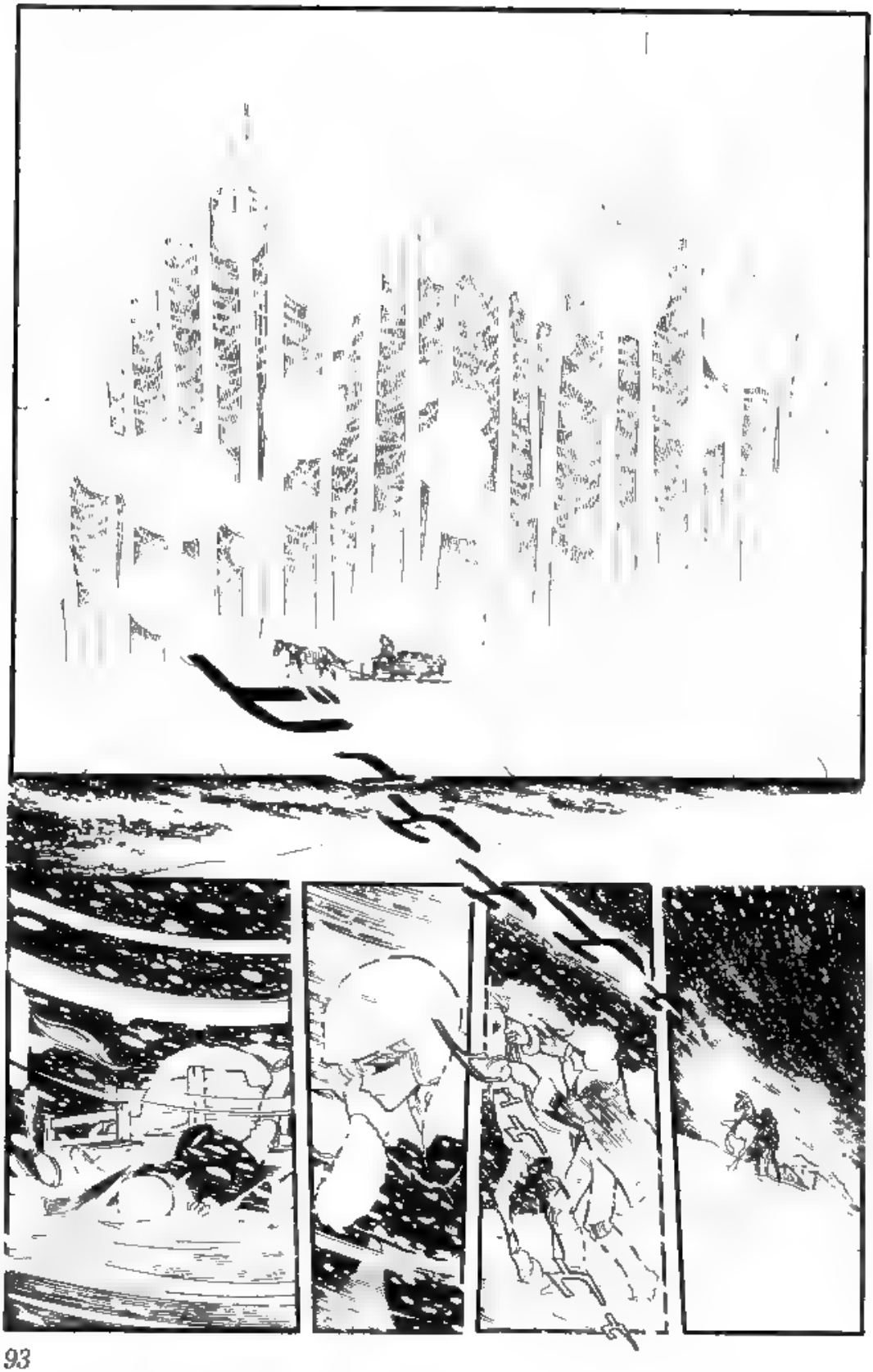
REALLY?!

YOU'RE THAT FAMOUS PIANIST FROM THE TOWN I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT, RIGHT?
I CAME HERE FROM PARIS TO SEE THE SNOW, BUT I HAVE YET TO HIRE ANY SERVANTS.
PIANIST ...!
HUH !?
FIRST OF ALL, COME TO MY LIVING ROOM AND PLAY A SONG FOR ME AND MY DAUGHTER.
SECOND, CLEAR THE SHED'S ROOF OF SNOW.
REALLY?!
THE GENTLEMAN ACCEPTED TO PLAY THE PIANO FOR US!
JOLINA, WONDERFUL NEWS.
WELL THEN, PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
MOTHER!
COME HERE!
COME HERE, THEN!

AH, SERGE IS RUNNING AROUND A BIG GARDEN WITH MY YOUNGER SELF...
WHERE IS IT?
... ITS THE GARDEN OF THE MANSION WHERE I GREW UP....

WHERE'S THE SHOVEL ?
IN THE SHED. BUT THERE'S NO RUSH TO DO THAT.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE PLAYED ON INSTRUCTION, RATHER THAN AT MY OWN WHIM
WILL YOU HAVE SOME TEA?
...NO!
ALL I WANT TO DO RIGHT NOW IS RUN HOME AND SHOW THIS TO MY SON.
PLEASE EXCUSE MY EXCITEMENT.
IF I COULD JUST HAVE A FEW DAYS' RESPITE
I PROMISE I'LL PLAY FOR YOU AS LONG AS YOU LIKE
EXCUSE ME!
SERGE...
SERGE!
JUST WAIT,
WITH THIS WE CAN GET THROUGH THE WINTER WITHOUT A WORRY!

I USED TO LIVE IN THAT KIND OF LUXURY...
IS SOMETHING I EARNED ALL BY MYSELF!
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
BUT THIS

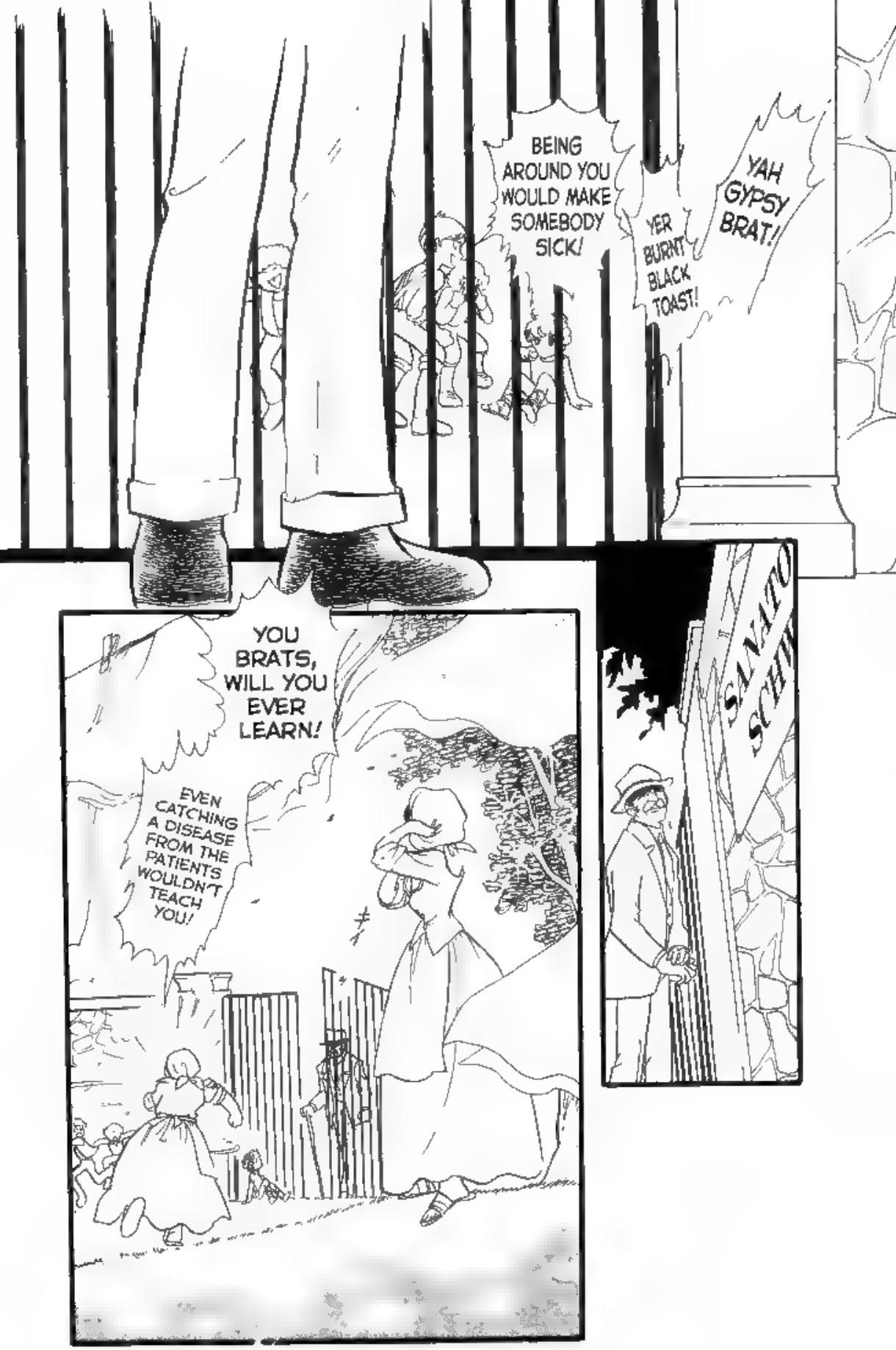


YES
GO!
IF YOU DO THAT
GO UP ... UP TO THE TOP OF THAT HILL
PAIVA WILL BE ABLE TO FI...ND IT
I SHOULDN'T BE HEARING THIS
IT CAN'T BE...
THE SOUND OF A BELL
AND WITH THIS SNOW STORM TOO...
HE'S LATE ...

WEL-COME HOME!
ASLAN!
ASLAN!!
ASLAN ...
ASLAN!
WHERE ARE YOU, ASLAN!!
AS..LAN YOU ...

ASLAN!!
ASLAN!

SANATORIUM SCHWEINE
YOU'RE GONNA GET AN EARFUL!
HE'S CRYING!


BEING AROUND YOU WOULD MAKE SOMEBODY SICK!
YER BURNT BLACK TOAST!
YAH GYPSY BRAT!
YOU BRATS, WILL YOU EVER LEARN!
EVEN CATCHING A DISEASE FROM THE PATIENTS WOULDN'T TEACH YOU!

FROM NOW ON, IT'S SOMETHING HE'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH CONSTANTLY
HE NEEDS TO GET USED TO IT WHILE HE'S LITTLE.

THANK YOU
BUT IT'S FINE.
AND YOU! HOW ABOUT DOING SOMETHING TO STOP THEM?

GOOD GRIEF. THESE MOUNTAINS ARE FULL OF OTHER PLACES THEY COULD BE PLAYING IN.

BUT PAIVA! YOUR DARLING BOY COULD BECOME A RUFFIAN--
WAIT
SOME-ONE IS COMING.

EXCUSE ME, BUT ...
IS THERE A BATTOUR ...
AN ASLAN BATTOUR STAYING HERE?

HE'S ...
WAIT YOU -
W--
AH ...
DON'T TELL ME THAT MY SON HAS ALREADY ...
OH MY FATHER-IN-LAW FINALLY
OH!
THEN... AS I THOUGHT, HE'S BEING CARED FOR HERE!
HE'S FINE. HE SHOULD BE SLEEPING RIGHT NOW, IN THAT WARD OVER THERE.
NO, NO!
AH

YOU FOOL.
THIS WAY
HEY! THIS IS A MISTAKE, I TELL YOU. YOU SHOULDN'T LET THEM MEET!
SANATORIUM SCHWEINE
OUTBUILDINGS
HE'S JUST NAPPING.
IF SOMEONE TALKS TO HIM, HE'LL OPEN HIS EYES RIGHT AWAY.
IS IT ALRIGHT TO WAKE HIM?
A MASK...
PLEASE PUT THIS ON.

WE'VE BEEN APART FOR SO MANY YEARS ...
MY SON ...
WAIT FOR A MO-MENT
WHO HAD THROWN EVERYTHING AWAY, INCLUDING ME.
BUT I DID NOT HAVE THE WILL TO CHASE SOMEONE
BACK THEN, I COULD HAVE SEARCHED FOR YOU, HAD I WANTED TO.
I NOW SEE
THAT WAS JUST
FOOLISH PRIDE
!
ASLAN
WAKE UP ...

WAKE UP... YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
SUNKEN CHEEKS ..
PALE SKIN ..
IS THAT ASLAN?
BACK THEN, EVEN WHEN HE WAS SICK, HIS YOUTHFUL COUNTENANCE WOULD NEVER FADE
ASLAN
DON'T-
A BLESSED DREAM
PAIVA
I HAD A DREAM
I WAS PLAYING AN OLD PIANO, COVERED IN VINES, ON A SUNLIT TERRACE
MOTHER AND FATHER WERE SITTING COMFORTABLY ON CHAIRS, IN THE BREEZE
AND YOU WERE PICKING ROSES, WEARING A STRAW HAT WITH A LARGE BRIM
IT SANG WITH A BEAUTIFUL, PLEASANT SOUND
THE WIND CARESSED SERGE'S SOFT HAIR

PAIVA
I THINK I KNEW MY ILLNESS WAS GOING TO COME BACK LIKE THIS
I KNEW, AND YET I MARRIED YOU
BUT I DON'T REGRET IT. FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I COULD'NT STOP WANTING YOU
DON'T YOU THINK I'M A BAD PERSON FOR THINKING THAT?
I GET IT, ASLAN
SO LET'S END THE CONVER-SATION HERE
I NEEDED YOUR HEALTH AND YOUR WILL TO LIVE!
DON'T YOU THINK I'M SELFISH FOR SAYING SUCH THINGS
EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T BUY YOU A SINGLE PIECE OF DECENT CLOTHING
I THOUGHT SOMEONE LIKE THAT
WOULD HAVE ABANDONED A SICK MAN LONG AGO!
PAIVA.
THAT WOMAN!
THAT COCOTTE!?

NO!
CAN SOMEONE WHO USED TO BE A COCOTTE TRULY BECOME SUCH A DUTIFUL NURSE?
.....
YES, HE'S HEALTHY AND STRONG.
HE TAKES AFTER YOU.
I WAS ABLE TO GET HALF MY WISH WITH JUST THAT.
HE'S A STRONG CHILD! HE'LL BE FINE EVEN IF HE'S ALL BY HIMSELF.
IF YOU GET SICK, SERGE WILL...
IF YOU DO THAT, YOU'LL CATCH IT.

PLEASE COME IN.
A VISITOR?
THERE IS A VISITOR WAITING OUTSIDE.
WELL, TIDY YOUR HAIR A LITTLE

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... ASLAN!
FATHER
I WANTED TO SEE YOU

I WANTED TO SEE YOU, FATHER

IS MOTHER DOING WELL?
ASLAN!
AH... I'M FEELING QUITE WELL TODAY.
HOW IS YOUR HEALTH?

DREADFUL!

THE VISCOUNT'S ONLY SON ELOPED WITH A COCOTTE

HOW DEPRAVED!

SHAMELESS!

WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION DID HE RECEIVE?

IT SEEMS THAT HIS OLDER SISTERS ARE MARRIED ALREADY

WE'VE AGED CONSIDERABLY AFTER WE STOPPED WITH OUR SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

SHE ... AND I...

FATHER! THIS IS AFFECTING EVEN OUR HUSBANDS' JOBS!

PLEASE GO GET THAT BOY BACK!

MAKE HIM TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!

BUT THAT WAS GOOD, ACTUALLY.

WHEN I FINALLY LEFT, IT WAS LIKE I COULD SEE HOW WORTHLESS ARISTOCRATIC SOCIETY WAS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THEIR PRIZED, UNSPOKEN PRECEPT OF EXTERNAL APPEARANCES OVERSHADOWS EVEN THAT OF THE BONDS OF FAMILY.

IT'S A WORLD OF LIES

PERHAPS I WAS SECRETLY JEALOUS OF YOU, WHO HAD ESCAPED FROM SUCH TRIFLES.

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT WHAT YOU DID WAS RIGHT

BUT I CAN'T APOLOGIZE

I DID SOMETHING BAD TO EVERYONE

I WON'T, THOUGH.

I...

SHOULD PERHAPS BE APOLOGIZING.

I WANTED TO LAY AS MANY PIECES AS I COULD, EVEN IF IT WAS JUST ONE... THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
BUT EVER SINCE I WAS BORN IN THIS WORLD,
UPON EVERY-ONE IN MY LIFE
I WANT TO LAY DOWN AT LEAST ONE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE. I HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE GRAVITY OF MY TRANSGRES-SIONS.
WHILE HE OVEREXERTS HIMSELF WITH BOTH HIS STUDIES AND PIANO
HE'S TRYING NOT TO WORRY ANYONE
BUT WHEN I TRY TO MAKE MY OWN PATH, I ALWAYS HURT PEOPLE.
YOU CAN'T. YOU'RE A VISCOUNT'S HEIR!
I WANT TO PLAY THE PIANO, FATHER.
I WAS SO SCARED OF HEARING OTHER PEOPLE'S CRITIQUES!
AND AN IDIOT WHO HELPLESSLY KEEPS ON STRUGGLING, WANTING TO GET BACK THE YOUTH THAT HE HIMSELF HAD THROWN AWAY
I AM A TIMID AND COWARDLY PERSON, FATHER
IN THE END,
I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A LISTENER, I WANT TO BECOME A PLAYER
EVEN THOUGH I KNEW... I KNEW ALL ALONG THAT I COULDN'T SUSTAIN
SUCH A CAREFREE LIFESTYLE.
I COULD NEVER BE AS ASSERTIVE AS LOUIS-RENÉ OR WATTS.

NON…
THAT'S ENOUGH
IT'S BEST YOU STOP SPEAKING
ASLAN!
COUGH
COUGH
THIS IS MY CHANCE, FATHER
IS NOW
MY LAST ONE
YES, MY CHANCE
IF SUCH A PERSON LACKS "STRENGTH," THEY CAN NEVER HOPE TO BECOME ANYTHING.
EVEN IF ONE HAS TALENT, ASSETS AND SOCIAL STANDING
FATHER
WAS THERE EVER ANYONE… ANYONE BETTER THAN YOU!
YOU'RE WRONG! YOU WERE KIND! YOU WERE AN INTELLIGENT, WONDERFUL CHILD!
YES.
WHAT I LACKED WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DIDN'T HAVE STRENGTH ?!

THE ONE WHO SAVED ME WAS PAIVA. .

HER SMILE, HER VOICE, HER EMOTIONS

THAT'S WHAT GAVE ME STRENGTH. UNTIL THEN I FELT LIKE I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING AT ALL

I'M GOING WITH PAIVA

I DON'T CARE WHO I HURT!

FROM NOW ON I AM GOING TO LIVE

I AM GOING TO LIVE FOR MYSELF!

I FINALLY PLACED A PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

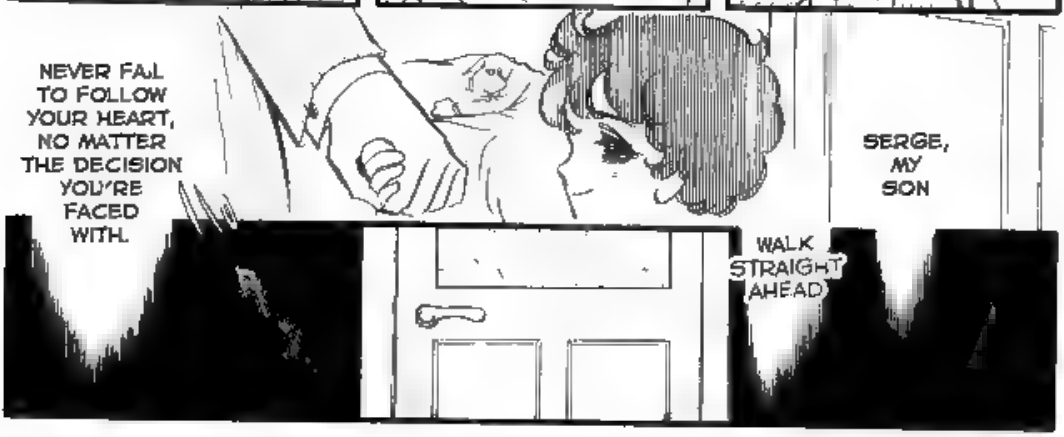
EVERYTHING YOU SEE BEFORE YOU NOW IS THE OUTCOME OF THAT

とことこ

GRANDPA

MAMAN SAID THAT PAPA SHOULDN'T GET TIRED, SO I CAME TO GET GRANDPA
WHAT IS IT, SERGE

YOU ARE ASLAN'S...
OH, I SEE
YOU ARE


NEVER FAIL TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART, NO MATTER THE DECISION YOU'RE FACED WITH.
SERGE, MY SON
WALK STRAIGHT AHEAD

ガタッ

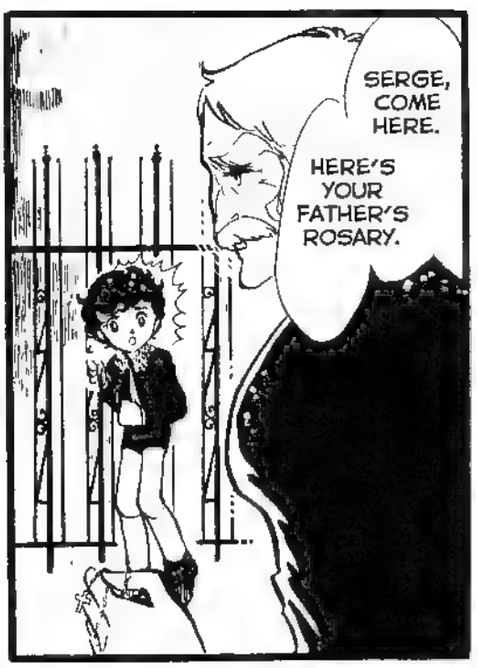
THERE'S THE SOUND OF A CLOCK COMING FROM SOME-WHERE
MOTHER
WHY WON'T YOU LET ME INSIDE
IT'S COLD
...
THE SOUND OF SOMEONE WALKING ...?
THE SOUND
THE SOUND OF A CLOCK
I WON-DERED WHICH ONE OF US WOULD GO FIRST BUT
AHAH ... I'M STILL HERE
GOD IS GIVING ME A CHANCE
YOUR FATHER IS DEAD
WAKE UP, LAD

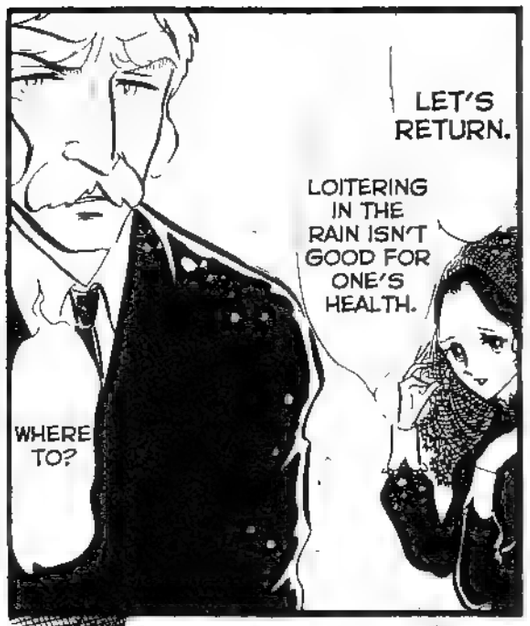
BUT THAT'S JUST A DREAM
UNLESS YOUR MOTHER STARTS SELLING HER BODY. FAH
NO
HE KEPT BOASTING ABOUT HOW YOU'RE A GENIUS.
IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. I WAS A TOTAL BASTARD, AND YET THE ONE WHO SURVIVED
WAS ME
IF I DIE, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS DISEASE.
YOU'RE ALL SMILEY. AND I... EVEN MY OWN PARENTS ABANDONED ME TO THIS WARD.
I HOPE THAT EVERY SINGLE KIND OF MISFORTUNE BEFALLS YOU!
BOY, COME INSIDE!
YOUR PAPA IS CALL-ING!
WHO IS THERE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!

GO SAY FAREWELL TO YOUR FATHER
NOW, LAD
WAS AN ANGEL OF DEATH!
THE ANGEL OF DEATH THAT CAME TO TAKE FATHER
THAT JUST NOW
IN THIS VERY MOMENT!
PAPA
FATHER...
WHAT'S WRONG, BOY
PLEASE, SERGE...
PROTECT...
MY VOICE...
WON'T COME OUT
YOUR MOTHER...
ASLAN!
DEAR
HE'S GONE

WHERE IS SERGE ...?

SERGE!
WHAT'S WRONG?!


SERGE, COME HERE.
HERE'S YOUR FATHER'S ROSARY.



YES

BACK WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED

HOW GREEN WAS OUR VALLEY

THE SMELL OF SWEAT, MUD, AND WHEAT

A LAND IMMERSED IN THE AFFECTION OF THE SUN

FIRST HE OBTAINED SOME LAND

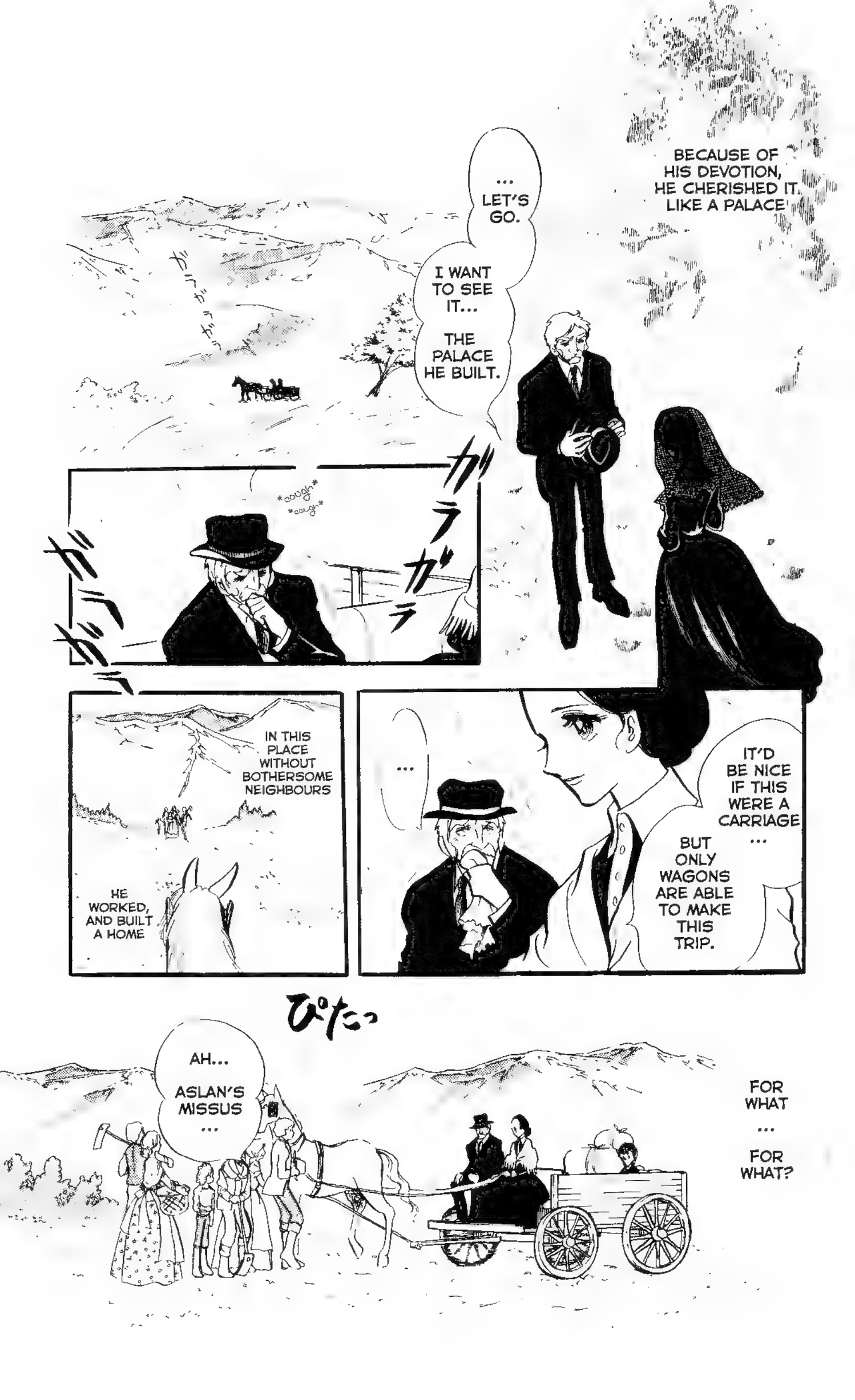
THEN HE BOUGHT TOOLS

LATER, FOR HIS MARRIAGE AND CHILD

HE CUT TREES AND PAINTED WALLS

PIECE BY PIECE, HE BROUGHT IT ALL TOGETHER

IT TOOK TWO YEARS UNTIL WE COULD LIVE THERE.

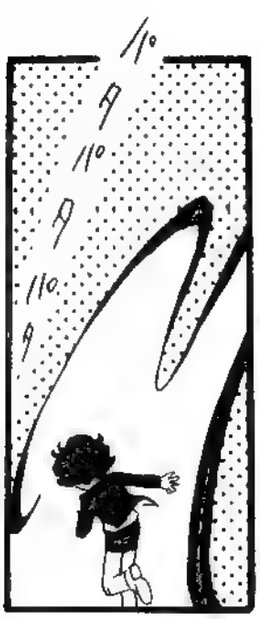

BECAUSE OF HIS DEVOTION, HE CHERISHED IT. LIKE A PALACE
...
LET'S GO.
I WANT TO SEE IT...
THE PALACE HE BUILT.
ガラガラ
cough
cough
IN THIS PLACE WITHOUT BOTHERSOME NEIGHBOURS
HE WORKED, AND BUILT A HOME
...
IT'D BE NICE IF THIS WERE A CARRIAGE ...
BUT ONLY WAGONS ARE ABLE TO MAKE THIS TRIP.
ぴたっ
AH...
ASLAN'S MISSUS ...
FOR WHAT ...
FOR WHAT?

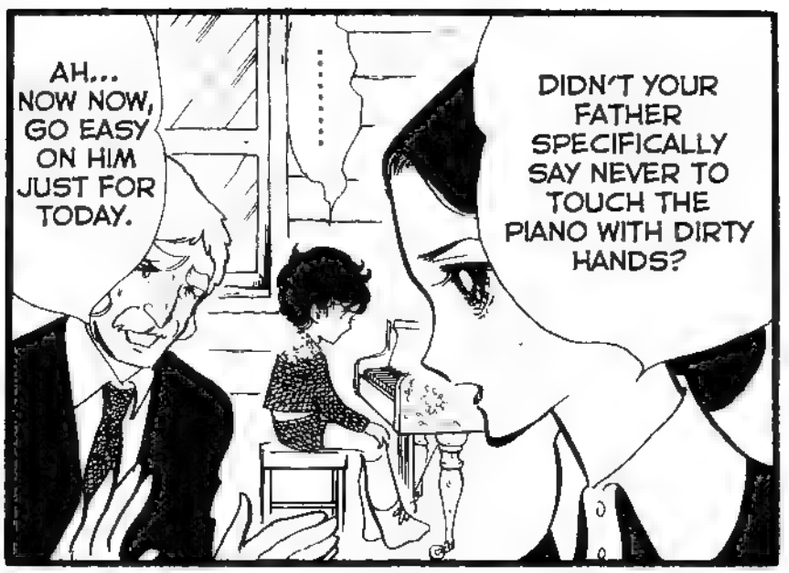
THANK YOU, EVERY-ONE
WE'LL BE IN CONTACT, ONCE THINGS HAVE CALMED DOWN
WE'RE REALLY SORRY FOR YOU
AND SERGE, AS WELL ...
HE WAS A YOUNG, GOOD-NATURED FATHER.
YOU MUST BE HEART-BROKEN
IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO ...
TO HELP YOU AT A TIME LIKE THIS ...
...!
HA HA ...
AS IF SHE'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT WHEN THERE'S SERGE TO TAKE CARE OF!
YOU IDIOT!
NO MATTER WHAT, DON'T FOLLOW HIM TO THE GRAVE!
SERGE, LET'S GO MUSHROOM PICKING AGAIN!
KEEP YOUR SPIRITS UP!
...
OVER THERE
I MUST ADMIT SHE HAS A STRONG DISPOSITION
NO MATTER HOW PREPARED ONE MIGHT BE...
IS SHE NOT HURTING?
ダダダッ

ASLAN!
バタ
PAPA
AN ANGEL OF DEATH
TOOK AWAY MY FATHER
HE'S NOT HERE
HE DIED ... HE'S NOT HERE ANY MORE

FATHER!
PAPA!
I ASK OF YOU
FATHER!
PROTECT YOUR MOTHER, SERGE
DID ASLAN RUN THROUGH HERE JUST NOW?
ASLAN!!
...!?
SERGE ... IS ACTING ODD.
HE'S NOT HIS USUAL SELF
OH!

SERGE!
THIS MUST BE A DREAM ...
...SHH, DON'T STOP HIM.
.....!?
NO!
HE WOULDN'T PLAY SO INTENSELY ...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE...
HE'S POSSESSED ...
SERGE ...
STOP ...
PLEASE STOP, SERGE!
LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR MOTHER IS TELLING YOU.
I SAID, STOP!
...





DAD...
DAD...
DAD...
IT HURTS!

MADAME PAIVA ...
WOULD YOU PLEASE COME OVER HERE
Y... YES, SIR
I HAVE AN EARNEST REQUEST
I WISH TO PASS ...
THE FAMILY TITLE ON TO MY GRANDSON, SERGE.
WOULD YOU PLEASE CONSENT TO THIS?
ダンッ
NO ...
NO!
SOMETHING BAD!
SOMETHING IS HAPPENING
WHAT ...
ARE YOU SAYING ...?
I'M NOT JUST SOME STUBBORN OLD MAN ANYMORE.
AND SERGE WOULDN'T BE THE ONLY ONE INVOLVED.
I WISH FOR YOU TO COME TOO.
I DON'T HAVE MANY YEARS LEFT.
PLEASE, LET ME KEEP MY SON'S CHILD!

I CANNOT!
TO LET GO OF HIS CHILD, OF SERGE!
I AM MORE THAN PRIVY TO THOSE CIRCUM-STANCES!
...PAIVA!
IT'S NOT JUST THAT. HOW INDECENT WOULD IT BE FOR SOMEONE OF MY KIND
TO BE PART OF A VISCOUNT'S HOUSE-HOLD?
...S-SO PLEASE...
LET ME BE!
I NO LONGER HAVE ANY ATTACHMENTS TO THE TITLE OF VISCOUNT OR HIGH SOCIETY
PLEASE... PLEASE... DON'T ASK SUCH AN UNFAIR THING FROM ME
NOW IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A TITLE ON PARCHMENT
MY FAMILY AND I WERE NO LONGER AFFILIATED WITH MY COURT RANK OR HIGH SOCIETY
FROM THE DAY ASLAN LEFT

I'D EVEN LIKE TO MOVE HERE WITH MY WIFE ...
AND LIVE OUT OUR DAYS IN PEACE AND QUIET
BUT I MUST RETURN TO THE PLACE WHERE WE'VE BEEN LIVING THESE PAST SEVENTY YEARS
.....
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT EVERYTHING I HAD WORKED FOR UP UNTIL NOW
WOULD SUDDENLY BECOME WORTH-LESS
I NEVER EVEN DREAMT IT
OF COURSE, THE IDEA OF WORTH
DEPENDS ON THE PERSON ...
OH ... SERGE !?
COME HERE! COME TO MY SIDE ...

MY SON ...
I'LL LET YOU PLAY THE PIANO TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT
I WON'T SET ANY RESTRICTIONS THIS TIME
THE HOUSE WHERE YOUR FATHER GREW UP
WON'T YOU COME WITH ME? TO OUR HOUSE IN PARIS
SERGE !!

I DON'T KNOW THE CAUSE.
THIS IS QUITE UNUSUAL.
AH ...
trembl
trembl
HE HAS A HIGH FEVER
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE SINCE THE FUNERAL.
HE'S VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE INNOCENT CHILD I KNOW.
HE DOESN'T EVEN CRY!
HIS FATHER'S DEATH MUST HAVE BEEN A SHOCK FOR HIM
AS I THOUGHT ... SHE WAS HOLDING IT ALL IN
.....!
I WAS SO BUSY TRYING TO KEEP MYSELF TOGETHER THAT I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE!
SERGE ...
UH ... MM
SERGE
SERGE

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, ANGEL OF DEATH!
NO ...
NO!
WHAT'S WRONG, BOY?
PAPA ... WHERE ...
DAD ... DAD
THE ANGEL OF DEATH IS COMING
THE ANGEL OF DEATH WHO TOOK PAPA AWAY!
HE'S COMING TO KILL ALL LIVING THINGS
I'M IN PAIN ...
LISTEN TO ME, MY BOY
YOUR PAPA IS GONE
ON ONE OCCASION, HE HELD FAST TO HIS COURAGE AND DROVE AWAY THE ANGEL OF DEATH
HE CONTRACTED A SERIOUS DISEASE WHEN HE WAS STILL YOUNG
BUT EVEN SO, HE MANAGED TO SURVIVE FOR SEVEN YEARS
DAD FACED ... THE ANGEL OF DEATH ...
YES, HE DID
BUT HE FOUGHT AGAINST HIM WITHOUT FEAR

AS A PRIZE FOR HIS BRAVERY, HE RECEIVED YOU.
HE LOVED YOU SO MUCH, SERGE.
HE GAVE YOU ALL OF HIS LIFE ... REALLY.
AT ANY RATE, YOU'RE MERELY 3 YEARS OLD
YOUTH COM-BATS DEATH.
YOU ARE ALIVE.
HIS EYES ARE OPENING!
SERGE! PLEASE LOOK AT MOMMY ...
... WHAT IS HE LOOK-ING AT?
DON'T MAKE A FUSS!
CALM DOWN!
SERGE IS NOW CONSIDERING, DEEP WITHIN HIMSELF
WHETHER TO LIVE OR DIE. THAT'S THE SERIOUS QUESTION HE'S PONDERING.
SUCH A YOUNG CHILD IS DOING THAT?

BUT A CHILD'S EXISTENCE IS MUCH VASTER THAN AN ADULT'S.
CONTEMPLATING EXISTENCE AS A CHILD...
YOU CAN NO LONGER RECALL IT
TRIALS?
OF COURSE.
A PERSON'S ABILITY TO CONTINUE IN LIFE IS CONTINGENT ON THOSE TRIALS THEY HAVE IN CHILDHOOD.
THEY TRANSCEND EVERYTHING... THEY ARE ABLE TO CATCH THE TRUE ESSENCE OF THINGS
... SERGE IS A CLEVER CHILD
TO A PLACE FAR AWAY FROM HIS PARENT'S GRASP
IN THE DEEPEST RECESSES OF HIS HEART
A PIECE OF SERGE'S SOUL WAS TRYING TO FLY AWAY JUST NOW
A SOUL IS BLOOMING, YET UNSEEN TO THE EYE.
IF HE WAKES UP AND STARTS CRYING, HOLD HIM TIGHTLY, PLEASE
HE'LL GET BETTER JUST WITH THAT

WA-TER ...
HA HA HA HA HA
SURGUR
BUT HE'S NOT HERE ANYMORE
HE'S NOT HERE
I'D HEAR HIS CHEERFUL VOICE AT THAT MOMENT...
コッチ
コッチ
コッチ
NORMALLY HE'D BE BACK HOME BY NOW
TH.S IS DAD'S BED
DAD'S BLAN-KET

THINGS WILL NEVER AGAIN
...RETURN TO THAT TIME

コトリ
AH!
スー
スー
SERGE!
SERGE... IS THAT YOU?

SER
...

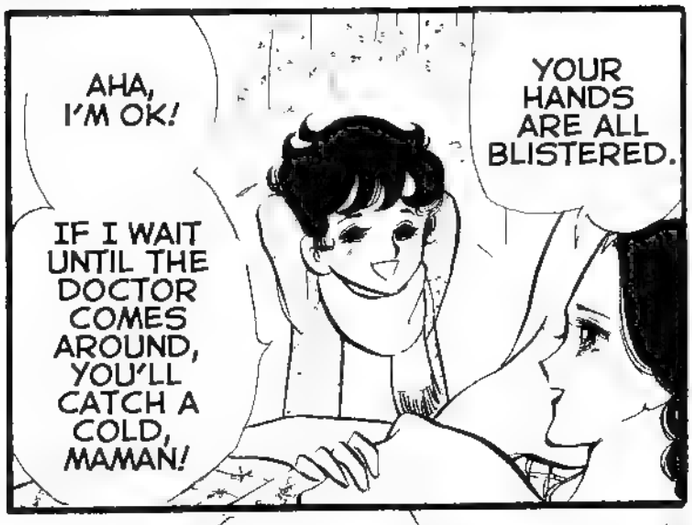
UU UU UH!
UUH
...SERGE!
UUUU AAAHHH!
SERGE'S EYES DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THOSE OF A 3-YEAR-OLD
WHAT'S GOING ON?
JUST NOW, FOR A MOMENT,
WITH THE SORROW YOU'RE FEELING
BECAUSE NOT EVEN THIS MOTHER OF YOURS CAN HELP
ALL I CAN DO IS HOLD YOU

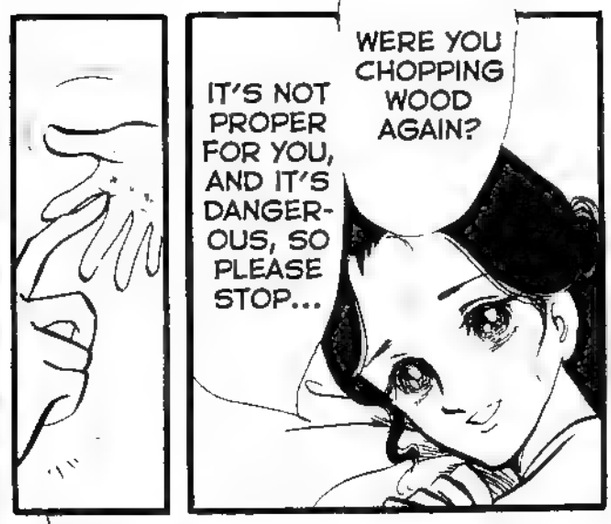
IF I RAISED MY CHILD TO BE ABLE TO BEAR THIS MUCH, IT MEANS I'VE DONE MY DUTY AS A MOTHER
EVEN SO, I AM SATIS-FIED

ONCE SPRING COMES, I'LL SEND HIM TO PARIS
PROVIDED I CAN SPEND JUST THIS WINTER WITH SERGE
I'M GOING TO GIVE MY FATHER-IN-LAW AN ANSWER
NOW HE MUST CHOOSE LIFE

AS THE FALLING LEAVES SURROUNDED MY MOTHER
IT SEEMED AS THOUGH HER HEART, STRAINED FROM THE TRIAL OF THOSE DAYS, FINALLY RELAXED
AND THEN, AFTER GRAND-FATHER LEFT FOR PARIS
シン
REMEMBER HER IN THAT MOMENT
I WILL FOREVER
FOREVER

THROUGH-OUT THE WINTER, MY MOTHER WAS WITH CHILD
OH, SNOW!
I USED TO WONDER WHY SHE WAS IN BED SO OFTEN
MAMAN! MAMAN!
IT'S SNOWING!
OH, I'M SORRY
DID I WAKE YOU UP?
THAT'S ALRIGHT. COME HERE. SNOW, YOU SAY?
WINTER COMES EARLY IN THE MOUNTAINS


AHA, I'M OK!
YOUR HANDS ARE ALL BLISTERED.
IF I WAIT UNTIL THE DOCTOR COMES AROUND, YOU'LL CATCH A COLD, MAMAN!


WERE YOU CHOPPING WOOD AGAIN?
IT'S NOT PROPER FOR YOU, AND IT'S DANGER-OUS, SO PLEASE STOP...

MAMAN... GIVE ME A KISS
.....
...DON'T

Tee-hee!
SERGE!
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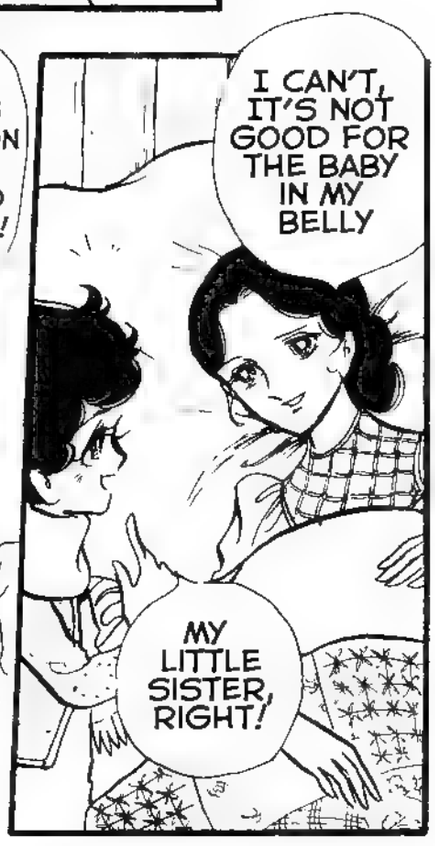
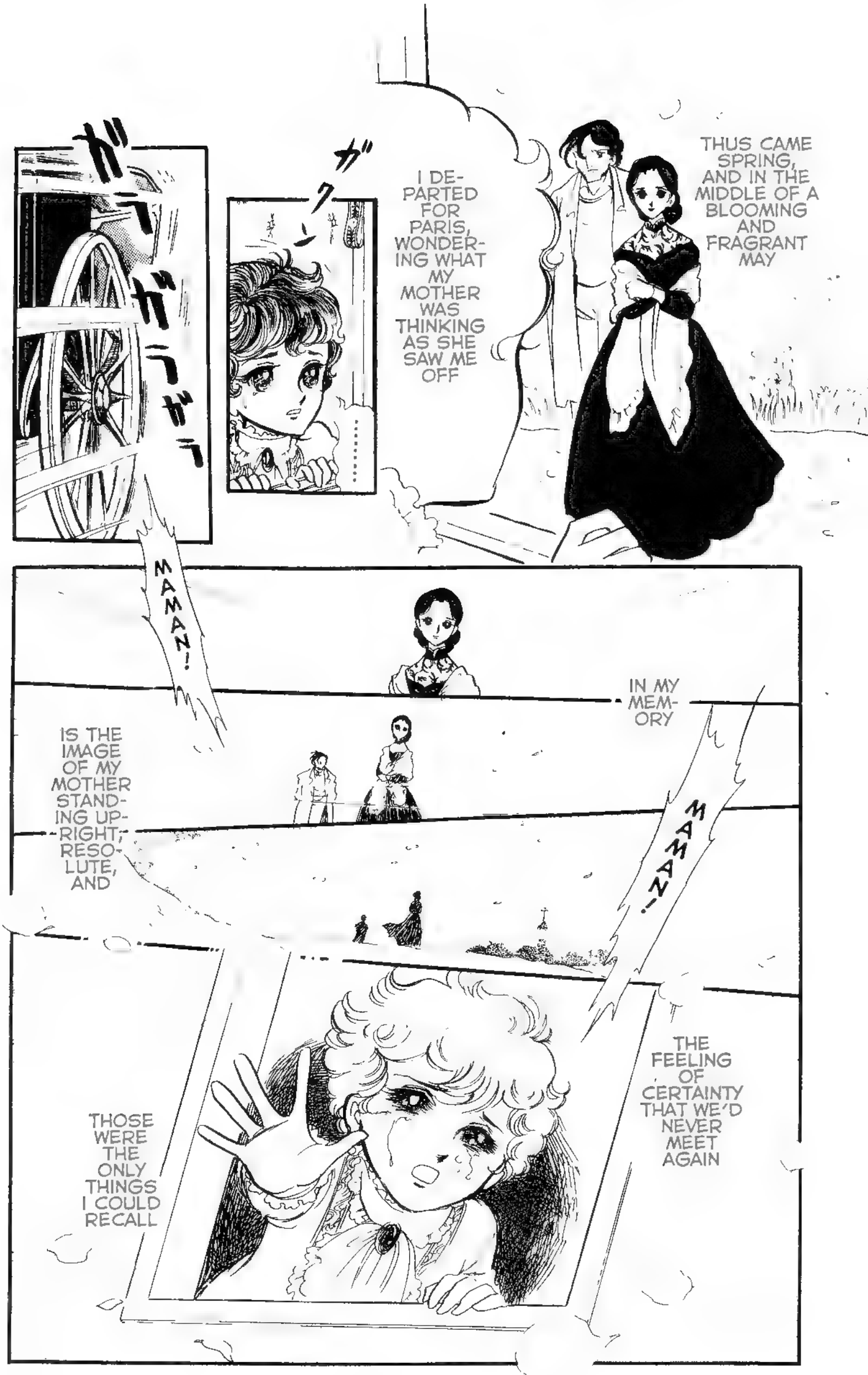
I'LL KISS YOU ON THE HAND THEN!
MY KISS WILL GO THROUGH YOUR HAND AND REACH MY SISTER!


I CAN'T, IT'S NOT GOOD FOR THE BABY IN MY BELLY
MY LITTLE SISTER, RIGHT!

AH?
I'LL GO SHTEEP SOME TEA
I MEAN STEEP
AH, DOCTOR!
WELCOME
SFX: KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
!?
SERGE ...
COME HERE.

PLEASE STOP!
YOUR MOTHER...
ISN'T PREGNANT
YOUR MOTH-ER'S LUNGS ARE...
IT BECAME CLEAR IN THE LAST EXAMINATION I GAVE HER
MADAM PAIVA!
UNTIL THEN, THE TWO OF US WILL BE LIVING HERE
ONCE SPRING COMES, SERGE WILL BE OFF TO PARIS
PLEASE, JUST THIS ONCE...
LET IT BE.
I RECEIVED SOME LETTERS. ONE IS FROM MY MOTHER-IN-LAW TO ME
AND THE OTHER
DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO PART WITH THIS CHILD?

A FORMAL LETTER TO SUCH A SMALL CHILD
MY FATHER-IN-LAW'S FAITHFUL BUTLER BROUGHT IT
HIS LORDSHIP, VISCOUNT SERGE BATTOUR?!
AUTRICHE
I WILL RETURN SERGE IN HIS PLACE
ASLAN WAS THE HEIR I SNATCHED AWAY FROM THEM
SO...
BUT I DON'T INTEND TO BE A PERSON OF SUCH UNWORTHY ASPIRATION
IT SAID THAT MY MOTHER-IN-LAW WELCOMED ME FROM THE BOTTOM OF HER HEART
I will send our secretary for you next spring
Therefore, according to his will, Serge Battour is to be named successor to the viscounty
My dearest husband, Viscount Joseph Louis Battour, has passed away from a heart attack on the early dawn of the 18th of May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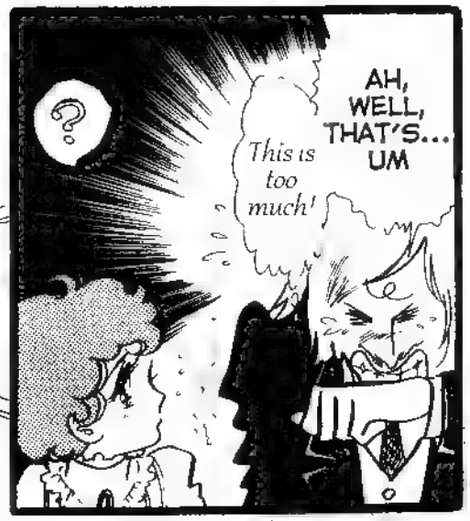
ガク
I DEPARTED FOR PARIS, WONDERING WHAT MY MOTHER WAS THINKING AS SHE SAW ME OFF
THUS CAME SPRING, AND IN THE MIDDLE OF A BLOOMING AND FRAGRANT MAY
MAMAN!
IN MY MEMORY
IS THE IMAGE OF MY MOTHER STANDING UPRIGHT, RESOLUTE, AND
MAMAN!
THE FEELING OF CERTAINTY THAT WE'D NEVER MEET AGAIN
THOSE WERE THE ONLY THINGS I COULD RECALL

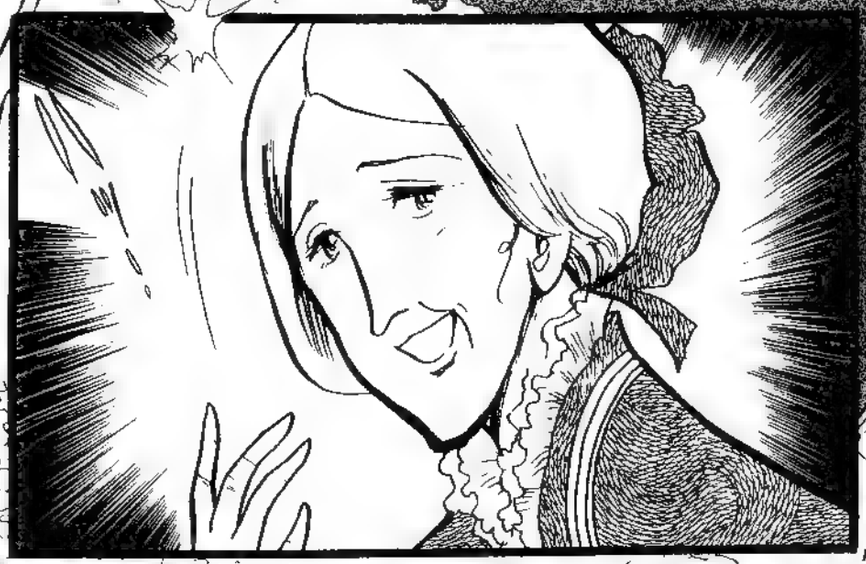
SUMMER, 1871: SERGE IS FOUR YEARS OLD
TRAVELLING TO THE ESTATE
OF THE VISCOUNTY...

*T/N: THIS BUBBLE IS CLEARLY POINTING TOWARDS THE BUTLER, BUT IT IS SERGE'S LINE. THIS IS AN ORIGINAL MISPRINT BY THE AUTHOR, SO WE LEFT IT FOR THE FULL EXPERIENCE.

AND WITH MAMAN TOO?
AT ANY RATE, FROM NOW ON THE YOUNG MASTER
WILL BE LIVING WITH HER LADYSHIP THERE

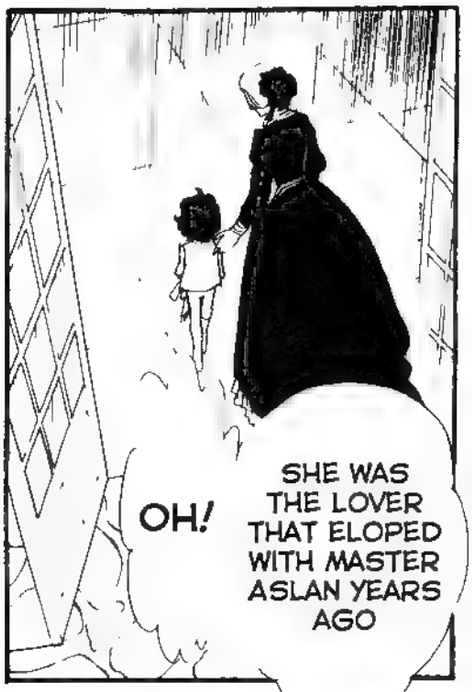
WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT ...
sigh...
WHERE, YOU SAY...


?
This is too much!
AH, WELL, THAT'S... UM



HE'S HERE! PLEASE GO CHECK!
THAT MUST BE HIM FOR SURE NOW!
YES YOUR LADYSHIP, THAT IS INDEED OUR CARRIAGE
GO ON, YOUNG MASTER, WE HAVE ARRIVED
NOW, YOUR LADYSHIP MUST GO TO THE ENT-RANCE
WE SHOULD MAKE HASTE!
OH,
IT'S TRUE!
IT'S TRUE!
HE'LL BE WEARING THE CLOTHES I PREPARED FOR HIM

EXCUSE ME... I DID TELL YOU MY NAME IS SERGE.
WON'T YOU PLEASE CALL ME THAT?
I WILL CARRY THE YOUNG MASTER'S LUGGAGE!
PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP!
SERGE!
...GRAND-MOTHER?
OH, SERGE ...
ALL BY YOUR-SELF!


OH!
SHE WAS THE LOVER THAT ELOPED WITH MASTER ASLAN YEARS AGO

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
HOW COMPLI-CATED...
NO DOUBT THOSE OF THE COURT WILL TALK

OH, WELL ...
THEY SAY HIS WIFE HAD GYPSY BLOOD

HIS SKIN IS DARK ...
OH MY, IS THAT MASTER ASLAN'S?

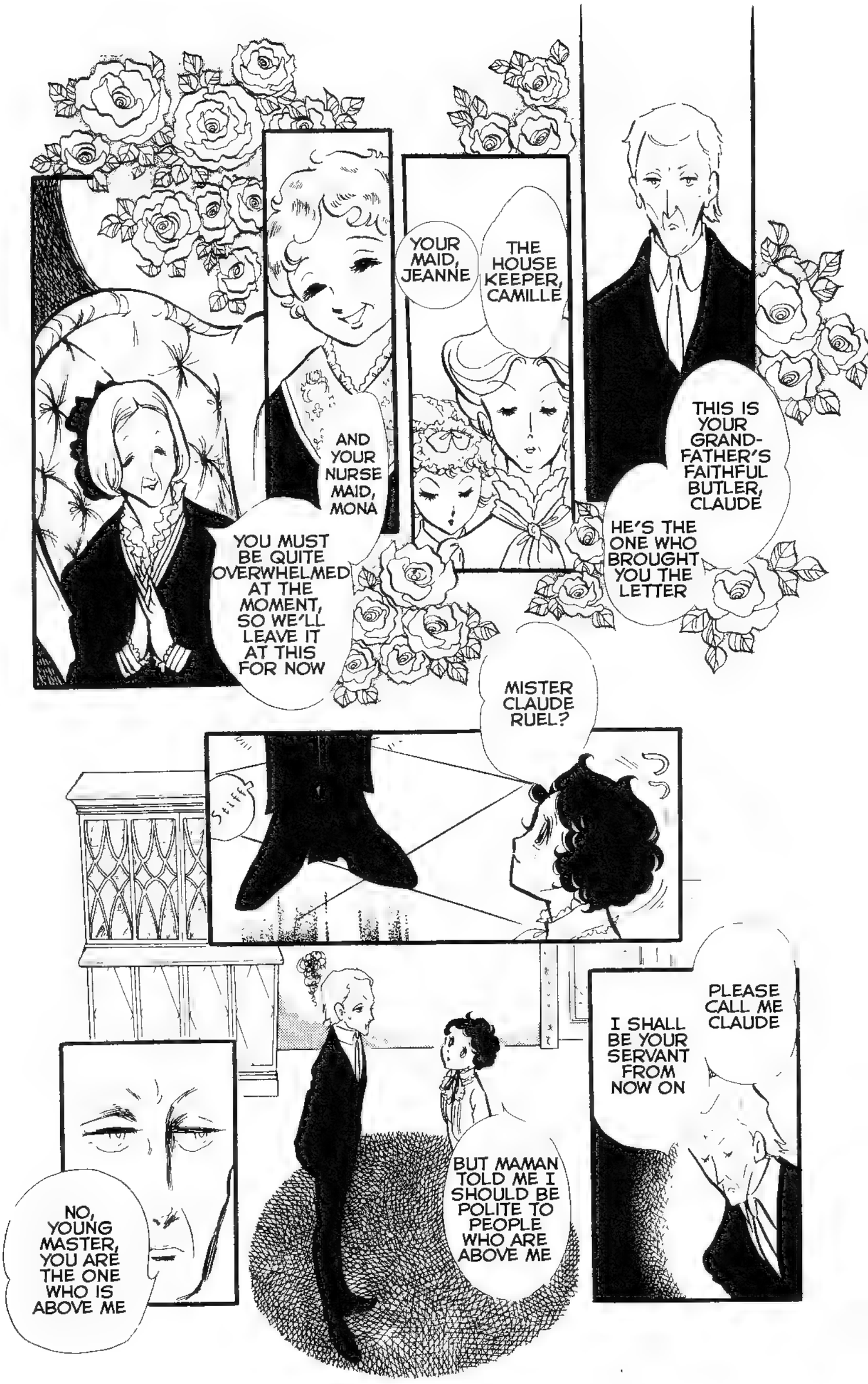
HE'S GOING TO GO THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE, POOR LAD
I FEEL QUITE UNEASY ABOUT TRANSFER-RING THE TITLE TO THIS CHILD

PLEASE COME IN

THIS DOESN'T BODE WELL!
THEY'RE GATHERING THE RELATIVES FOR HIS *DEBUT* NEXT MONTH

WON'T BE PLEASED WITH THIS EITHER
AS HIS NEW AUNTS, MISS ELIZABETH AND MISS MARGOT

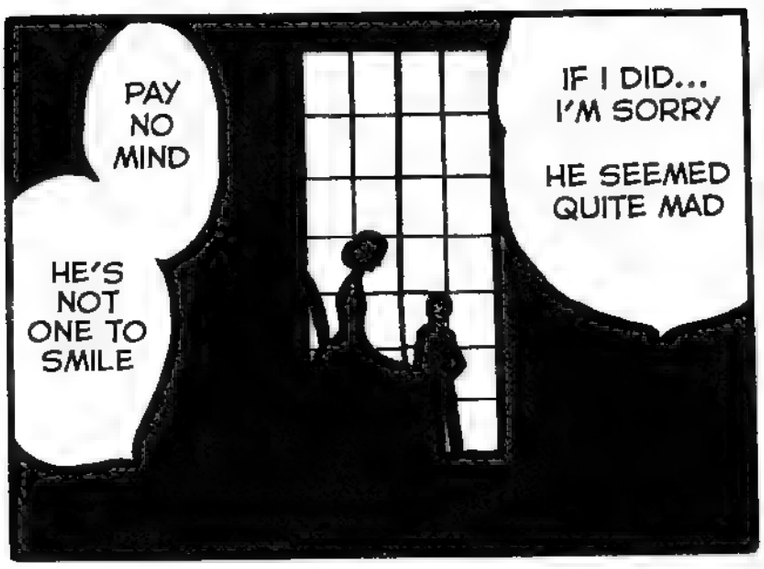
THIS IS ALL MINE?
IT'S BIGGER THAN MY HOUSE!
THIS IS YOUR ROOM, SERGE
AH!
MASTER?!
ENOUGH OF THAT KIND OF TALK. YOU ARE THE MASTER OF THIS ESTATE NOW.
クスクス
Pfff4b
He really doesn't understand anything!
ITS... LAND?
AH, YES. HERE, LET ME TEACH YOU ABOUT IT
YES, MASTER OF THIS ESTATE AND ALL OF ITS LAND, TOO


YOU MUST BE QUITE OVERWHELMED AT THE MOMENT, SO WE'LL LEAVE IT AT THIS FOR NOW
AND YOUR NURSE MAID, MONA
YOUR MAID, JEANNE
THE HOUSE KEEPER, CAMILLE
THIS IS YOUR GRAND-FATHER'S FAITHFUL BUTLER, CLAUDE
HE'S THE ONE WHO BROUGHT YOU THE LETTER
MISTER CLAUDE RUEL?
STIFF
PLEASE CALL ME CLAUDE
I SHALL BE YOUR SERVANT FROM NOW ON
BUT MAMAN TOLD ME I SHOULD BE POLITE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE ABOVE ME
NO, YOUNG MASTER, YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS ABOVE ME

I HOPE I DON'T GIVE YOU MUSH TROUBLE, I MEAN...
MUCH
I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COURTEOUS LETTER
OR SO I WAS TOLD
MY MAMAN WILL COME AS SOON AS MY LITTLE SISTER IS SAFELY BORN
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP.
AND FOR ALL OF YOU TO BE PRESENT MERELY FOR MY SAKE, I AM ALSO VERY GRATEFUL.
I MUST ALSO URGE YOU TO STOP REFERRING TO YOUR MOTHER AS "MAMAN."
COUGH
PLEASE DO AWAY WITH IT FROM NOW ON!
HOWEVER, WE SHOULD NOT BE ADDRESSED WITH THAT KIND OF FORMAL LANGUAGE.
A SPLENDID GREETING.
COUGH

?
?
?

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.


PAY NO MIND
HE'S NOT ONE TO SMILE
IF I DID... I'M SORRY
HE SEEMED QUITE MAD

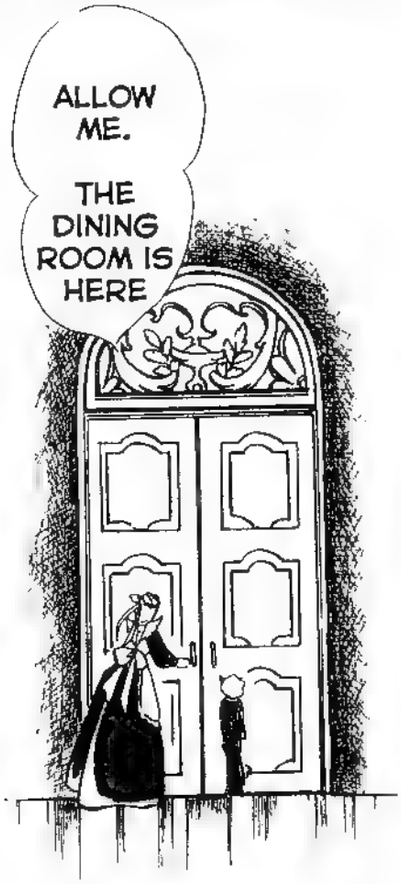
EH?

GRAND-MOTHER... DID I... DO SOMETHING WRONG?

.....!

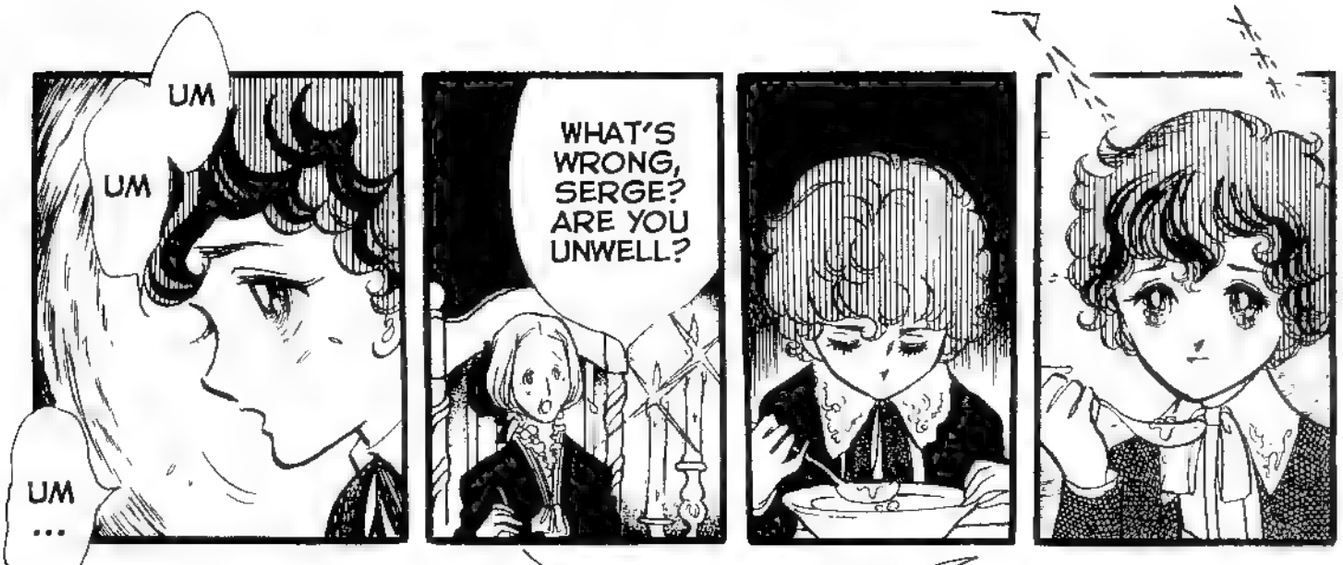
ゴク

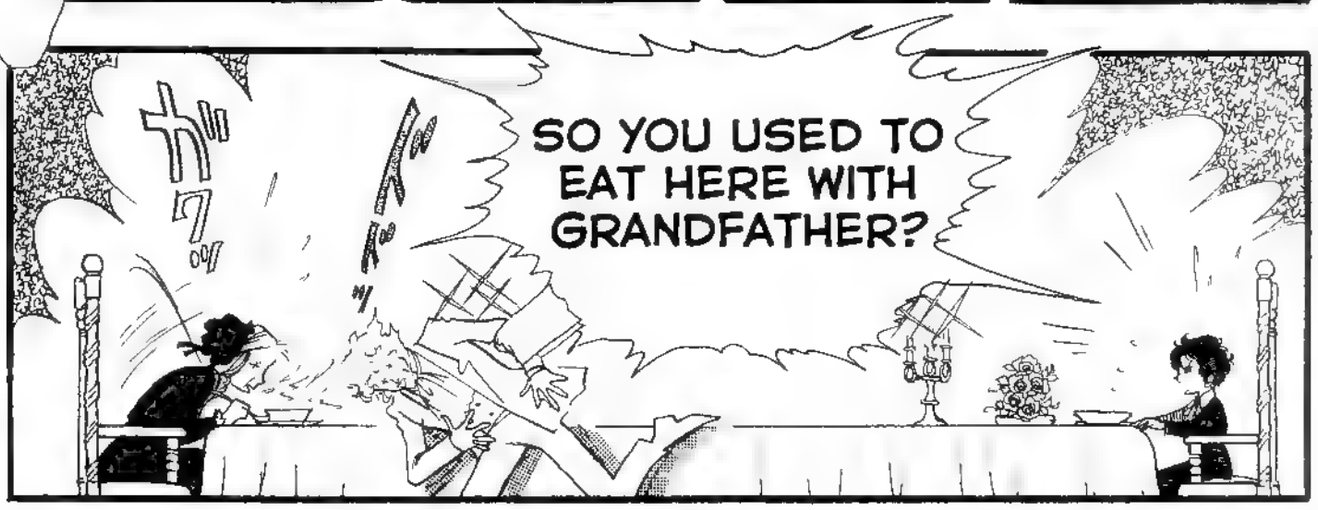
AH ...
UM ...

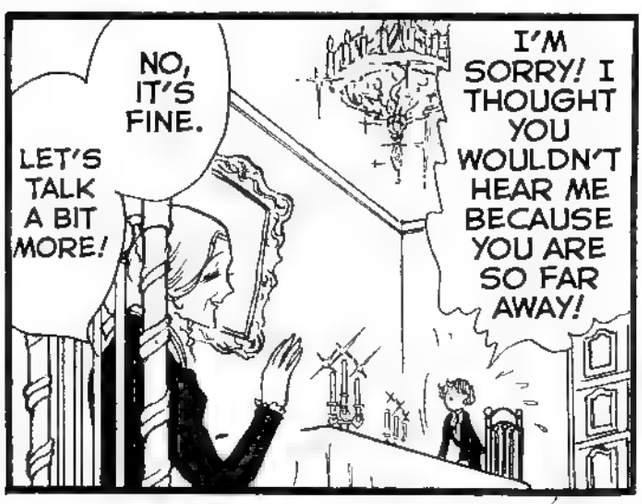

ALLOW ME.
THE DINING ROOM IS HERE

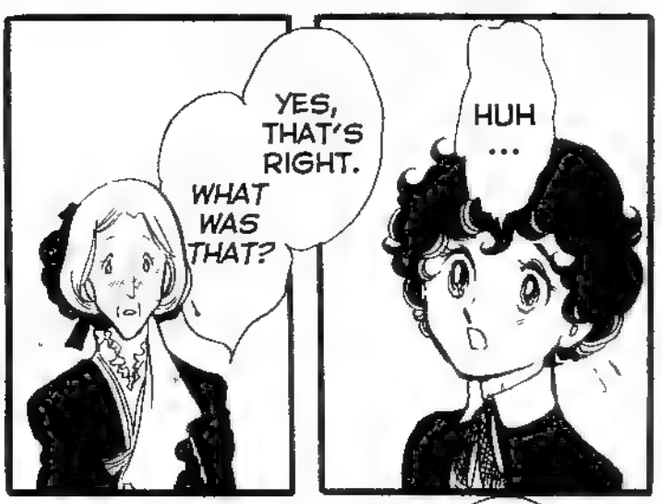
PLEASE BE SEATED, HER LADYSHIP HAS ALREADY ARRIVED
YOUNG MASTER...

AH, YOU MUST BE HUNGRY
DO HELP YOUR-SELF
IT'S MY FIRST TIME HAVING A MEAL WITH SOMEONE SINCE YOUR GRAND-FATHER PASSED AWAY. I'M SO HAPPY.
.....

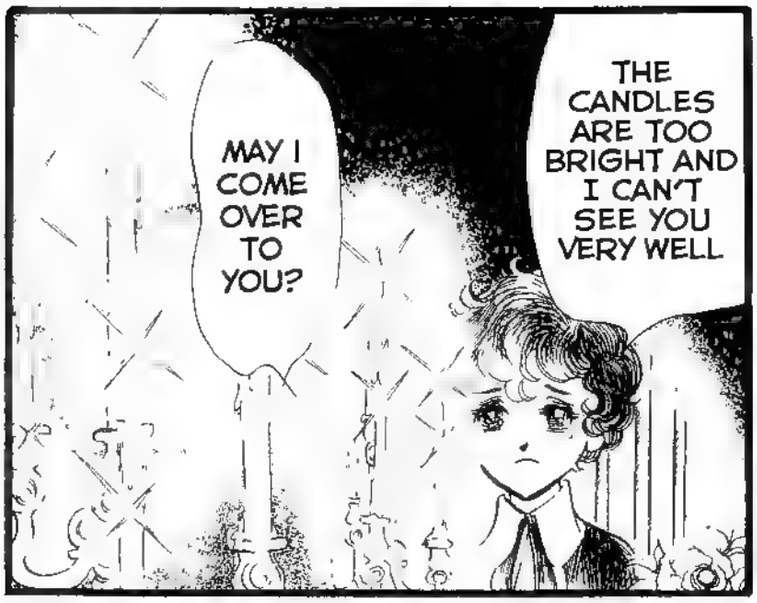

UM
UM
UM ...
WHAT'S WRONG, SERGE? ARE YOU UNWELL?


SO YOU USED TO EAT HERE WITH GRANDFATHER?


NO, IT'S FINE.
LET'S TALK A BIT MORE!
I'M SORRY! I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T HEAR ME BECAUSE YOU ARE SO FAR AWAY!


YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT WAS THAT?
HUH ...

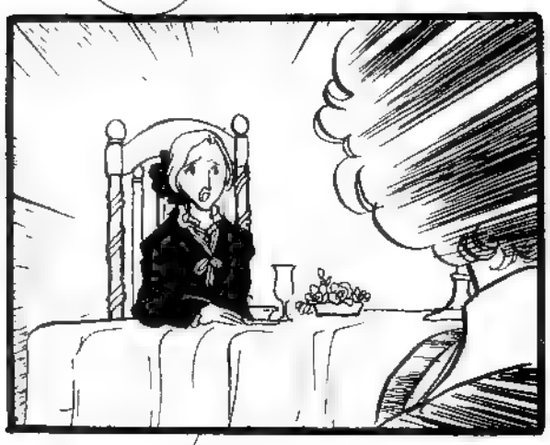
FATHER WAS NEXT TO ME
AND MOTHER RIGHT IN FRONT OF US
WE... MOTHER AND FATHER AND I...
WE ATE AT A TABLE THIS SMALL

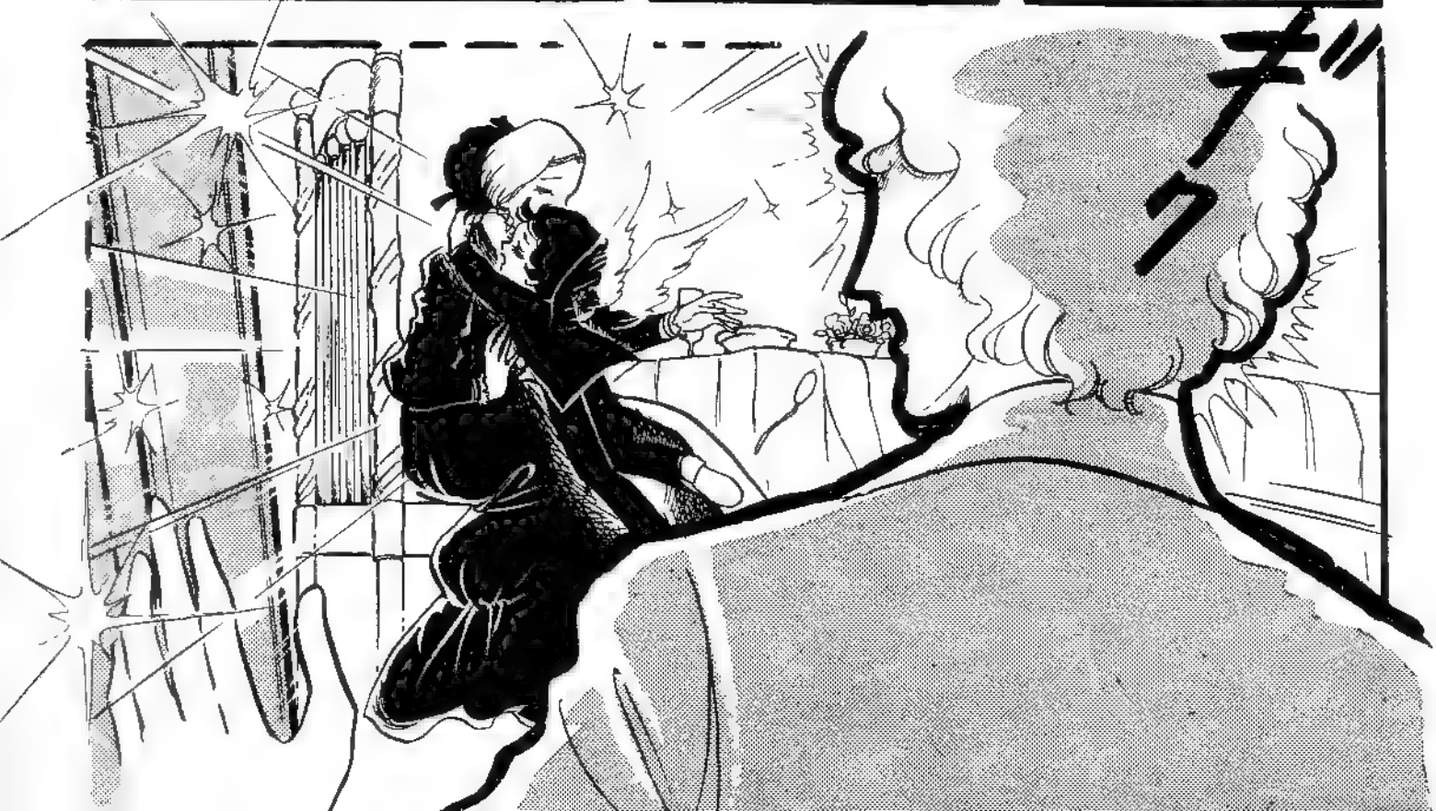

MAY I COME OVER TO YOU?
THE CANDLES ARE TOO BRIGHT AND I CAN'T SEE YOU VERY WELL

……!

DOESN'T IT FEEL LONELY OVER THERE, GRAND-MOTHER?

YES YOU MAY
OH …
DO COME
COME OVER HERE!

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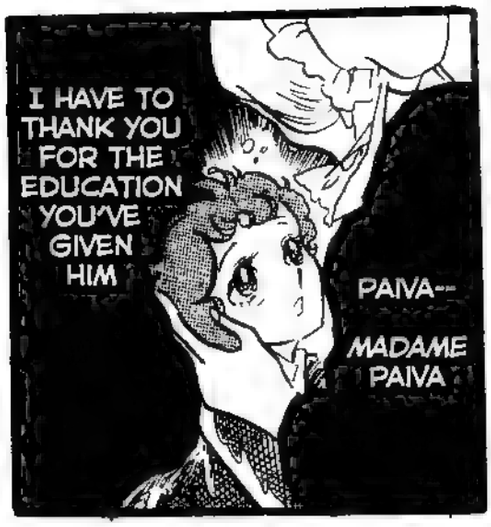
THAT'S SOMETHING CHILDREN OFTEN HAVE
WINGS?
AH ...
カチ
OH... I'LL WASH THIS
I'M SORRY FOR GETTING OUT OF MY CHAIR!
WHAT WAS THAT?
FOR A MOMENT HER LADYSHIP LOOKED MUCH YOUNGER
AND THERE ARE MANY SPOONS OVER THERE
IT'S HIS JOB TO WAIT ON US
COME HERE! YOU DON'T MEED TO DO THAT
I'LL DO IT...
BUT I'M... I'M THE ONE WHO DROPPED IT!

THANK YOU
BADUMP
HERE YOU GO
THAT I'VE SEEN SUCH HONEST, THANKFUL EYES!
I know, I know
Uh, uhh
ボロ
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE I BECAME A FOOTMAN
DID YOU... DID YOU SEE THAT?
HE WILL SURELY BECOME THE KINDEST MASTER
THIS IS OUR VISCOUNT NOW

SO HONEST AND CAREFREE...

BY NATURE,
HE IS WELL-MANNERED

ASLAN ...
YOU TWO REALLY LEFT A WONDERFUL CHILD BEHIND ...


I HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR THE EDUCATION YOU'VE GIVEN HIM
PAIVA--
MADAME PAIVA

THIS CHILD WILL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME ANY DIFFICULTY

AND CONTINUE OUR LEGACY

WHEN ... WILL YOU RETURN?
MAMAN ...
MOTHER ...
A LETTER FROM SERGE'S MOTHER, FOR WHOM HE HAS BEEN WA.T.NG ALL THIS T.ME
BUT HIS BEAUTIFUL MOTHER HAS RESIGNED HERSELF TO THE FACT THAT SHE WILL NEVER MEET HIM AGAIN

I am brazenly writing to you, despite never having made your acquaintance. Please forgive me.

I have fallen under the same illness that took my husband: Tuberculosis.

Esteemed wife of Viscount Joseph Louis Battour,

The beloved Aslan was your only child. Now, the son of your son, Serge, my beloved child, is at the mercy of your kind will.

My Aslan bestowed upon me a love for which I was unworthy, as a woman of low birth. A love which was truly transcendent.

My husband, I will follow you shortly.

I have taken your son from you. I return in his place, my Serge.

From Serge's mother.

To your heart and health, I humbly write.

And so, this will be my final letter.

This summer will be my last.

I pray for your generosity and kindness.

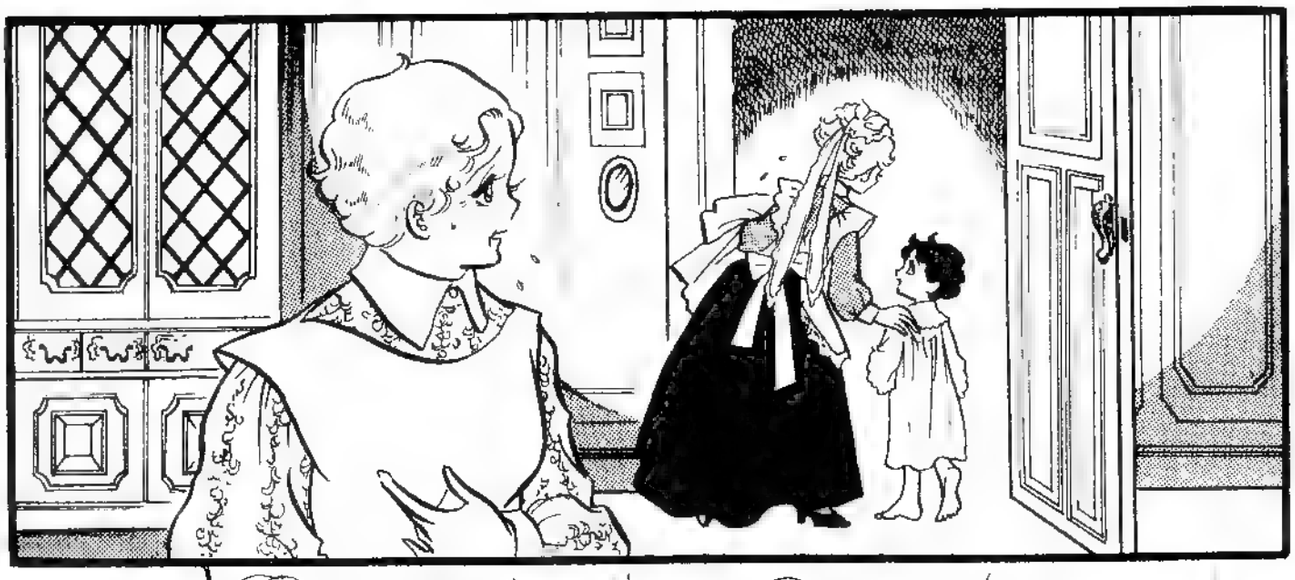
SFX: PAT PAT PAT
MAMA!
MAMA
SFX: BAM/ PAT PAT PAT
OH, YOUNG MASTER!
BANG!

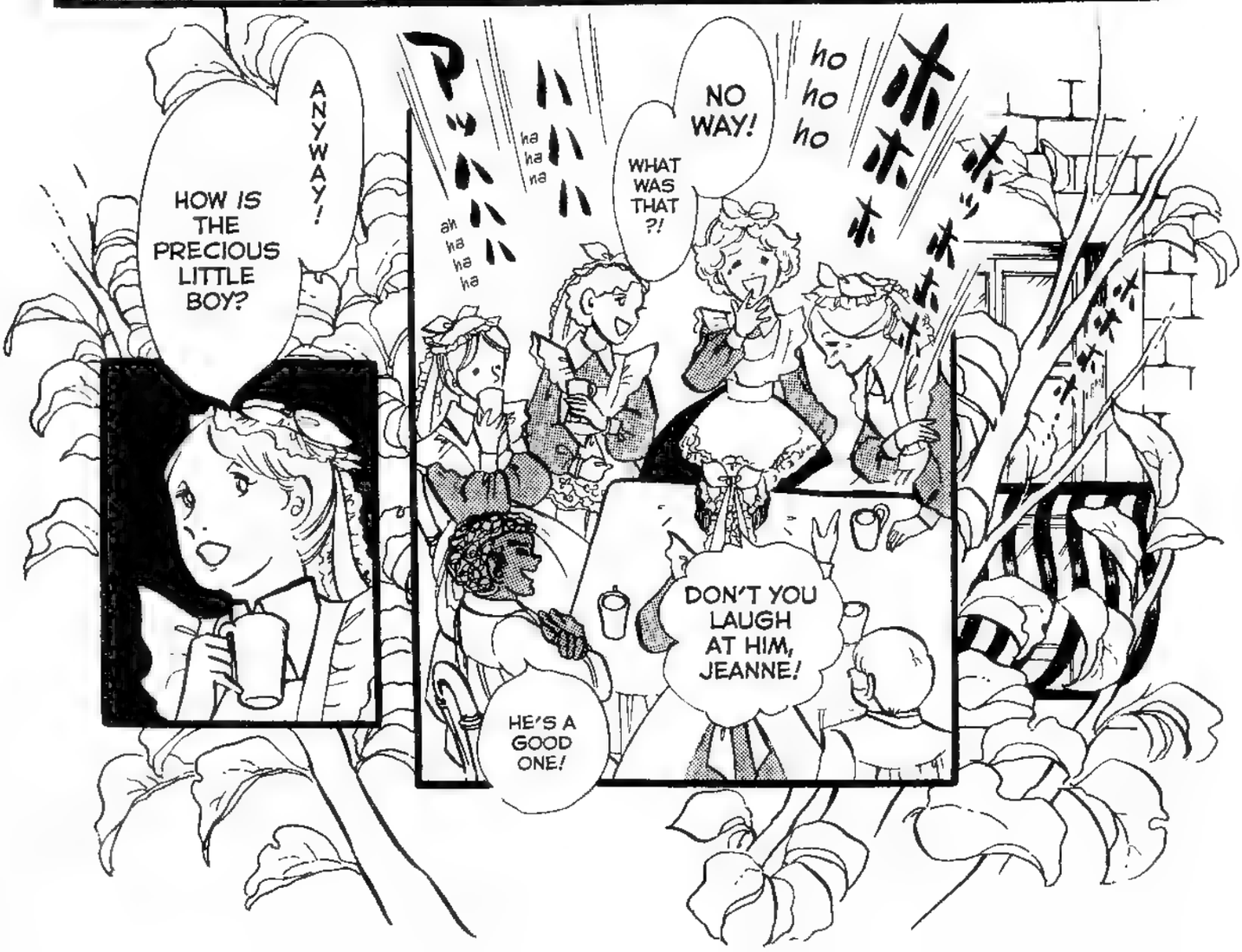
Aah!
HUH?
THIS IS YOUR SITTING ROOM SO IT'S FINE, BUT IF YOU PLAN TO LEAVE WEARING SUCH THINGS...
...
YOU MUSTN'T WALK AROUND IN YOUR NIGHTGOWN!
YOU'VE WOKEN UP?
MY, YOU'RE BARE-FOOT!
HUSH, YOU! WHAT A THING TO SAY...
THIS IS WHY I CAN'T BE A NURSEMAID!
HE'S CRYING! HE'S CRYING!
EEEK!
WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU HAVE A SCARY DREAM?
BOYS DON'T JUST CRY LIKE THAT
NON ...NON
じっ
がん!
アタタ
ARGH!
EVEN THOUGH I DECIDED TO WORK HERE BECAUSE
THERE WERE
NO CHIL-DREN ...

WELL, YOUR ETIQUETTE INSTRUCTOR IS COMING AT TEN, SO LET'S GET YOU READY, SHALL WE?
IT WILL BE FINE!
I'VE BECOME WORRIED ...

ガクン
SHOCK

IS MAMAN DOING WELL ?
I WONDER HOW MANY DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE I CAME HERE




ANYWAY!
HOW IS THE PRECIOUS LITTLE BOY?
アッハハハ
an ha ha ha
ハハハ
ha ha ha
NO WAY!
WHAT WAS THAT ?!
ho ho ho
ホホホ
ホッホホホ
DON'T YOU LAUGH AT HIM, JEANNE!
HE'S A GOOD ONE!

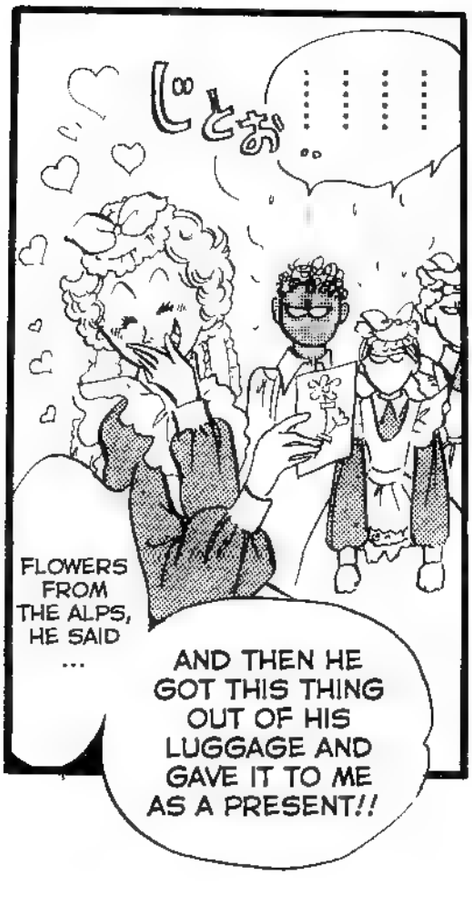
YEAH, YEAH
IT SEEMS LIKE HE UNPACKED ALL HIS LUGGAGE LAST NIGHT
OF COURSE HE IS, HE'S MASTER ASLAN'S SON
"IT SEEMS," HUH?
DIDN'T YOU HELP HIM?
ムス

WELL, FOR A NEGRO, HE'S A CUTE KID

OH?

JEANNE WOULD KNOW THE MOST ABOUT HIM, AS HIS CHAMBERMAID
...
HOW IS HE?

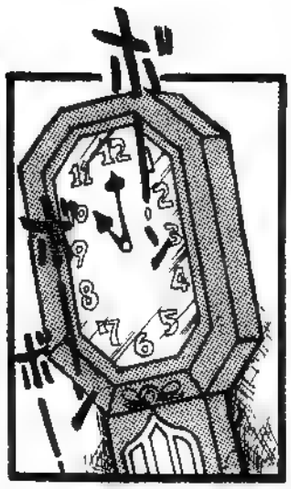
BUT THEN HE SAID, "WHAT I CAN DO FOR MYSELF, I WILL DO FOR MYSELF"
THAT'S WHAT YOU'D THINK, HUH!


しょぼん
FLOWERS FROM THE ALPS, HE SAID ...
AND THEN HE GOT THIS THING OUT OF HIS LUGGAGE AND GAVE IT TO ME AS A PRESENT!!

IT'S CUTE ♡
heh
BUT, YOU KNOW... THAT'S FINE BY ME!

WOW, YOU DON'T SAY?
MY, HOW CHEEKY !!

Eeek!
ぎくっ
HAND OVER THAT FLOWER!!
WELL EXCUUUSE ME FOR BEING BITCHY!
WHY YOU-
YOU WERE ALL GRUMBLY, BUT YOU ACTUALLY LIKE HIM, EH?!
AH, ME TOO!
FROM THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM, I THOUGHT HE LOOKED JUST LIKE MASTER ASLAN!
HMPH!
UM... ER, I CAME HERE TO GIVE EVERYONE A GIFT...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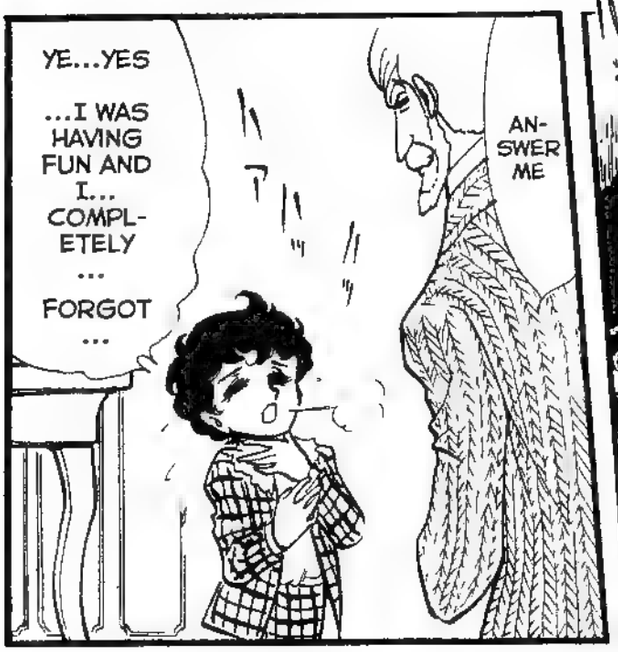
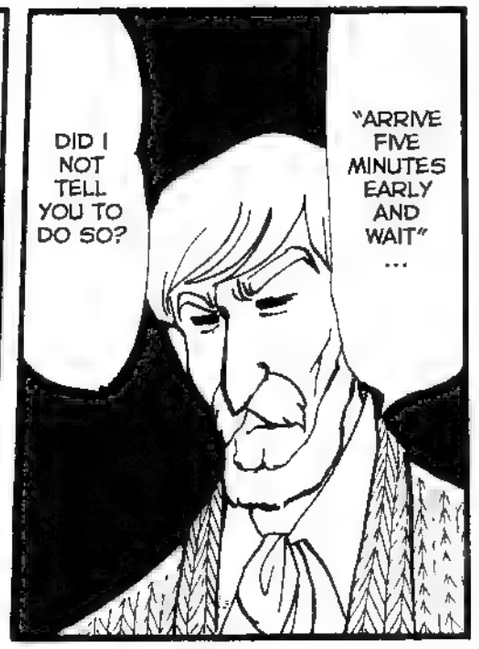
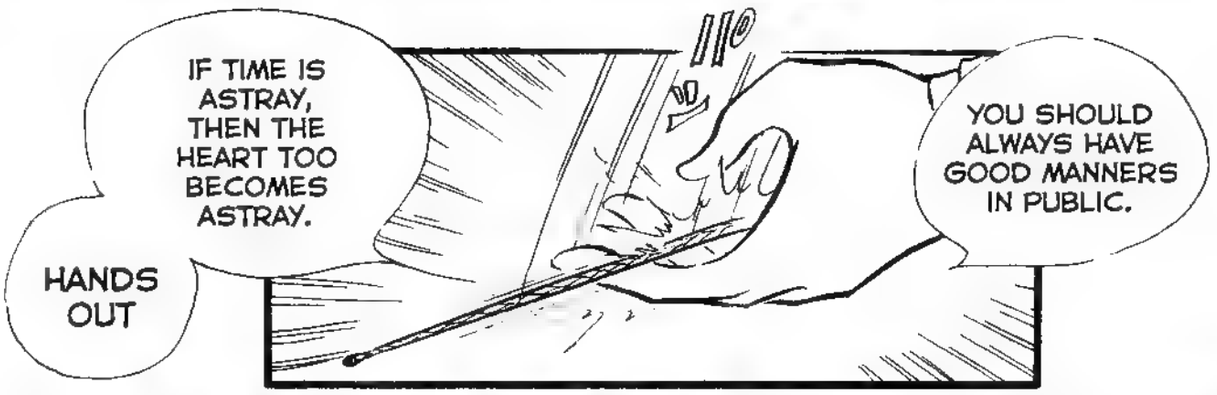
BE WELL, LITTLE GUY!
I NEED TO GO! MY TEACHER SHOULD BE HERE!

WELL ...
YOU'RE LATE BY TEN MINUTES, SERGE


YE...YES
...I WAS HAVING FUN AND I... COMPL-ETELY ... FORGOT ...
AN-SWER ME

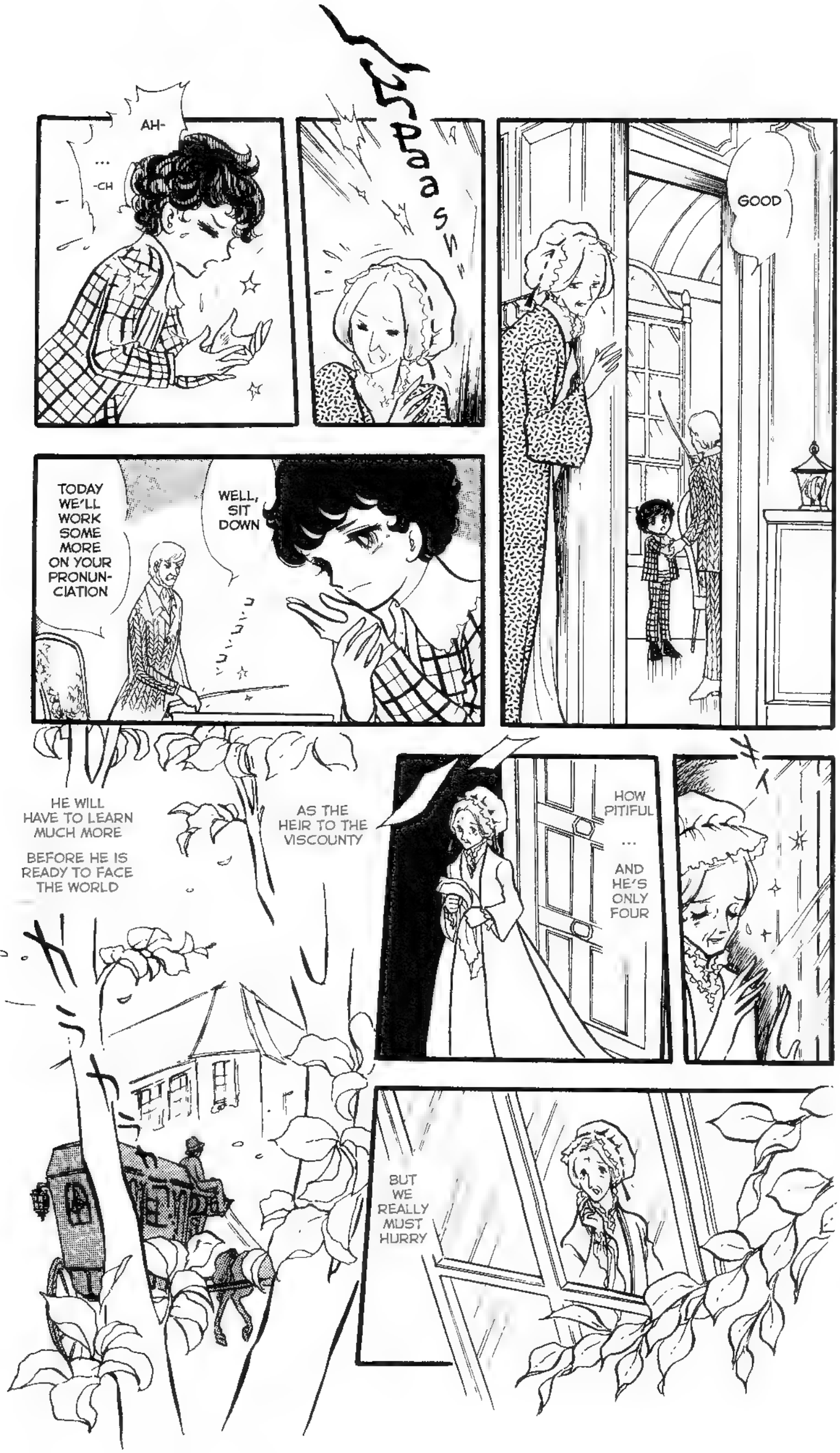

DID I NOT TELL YOU TO DO SO?
"ARRIVE FIVE MINUTES EARLY AND WAIT" ...

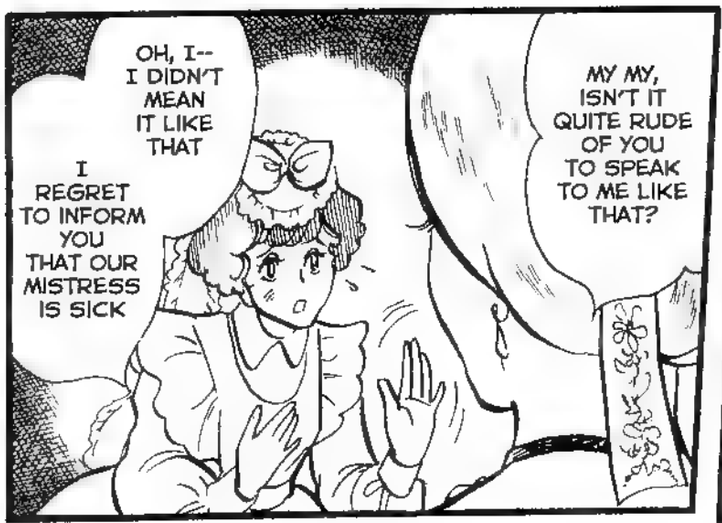

IF TIME IS ASTRAY, THEN THE HEART TOO BECOMES ASTRAY.
HANDS OUT
YOU SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE GOOD MANNERS IN PUBLIC.

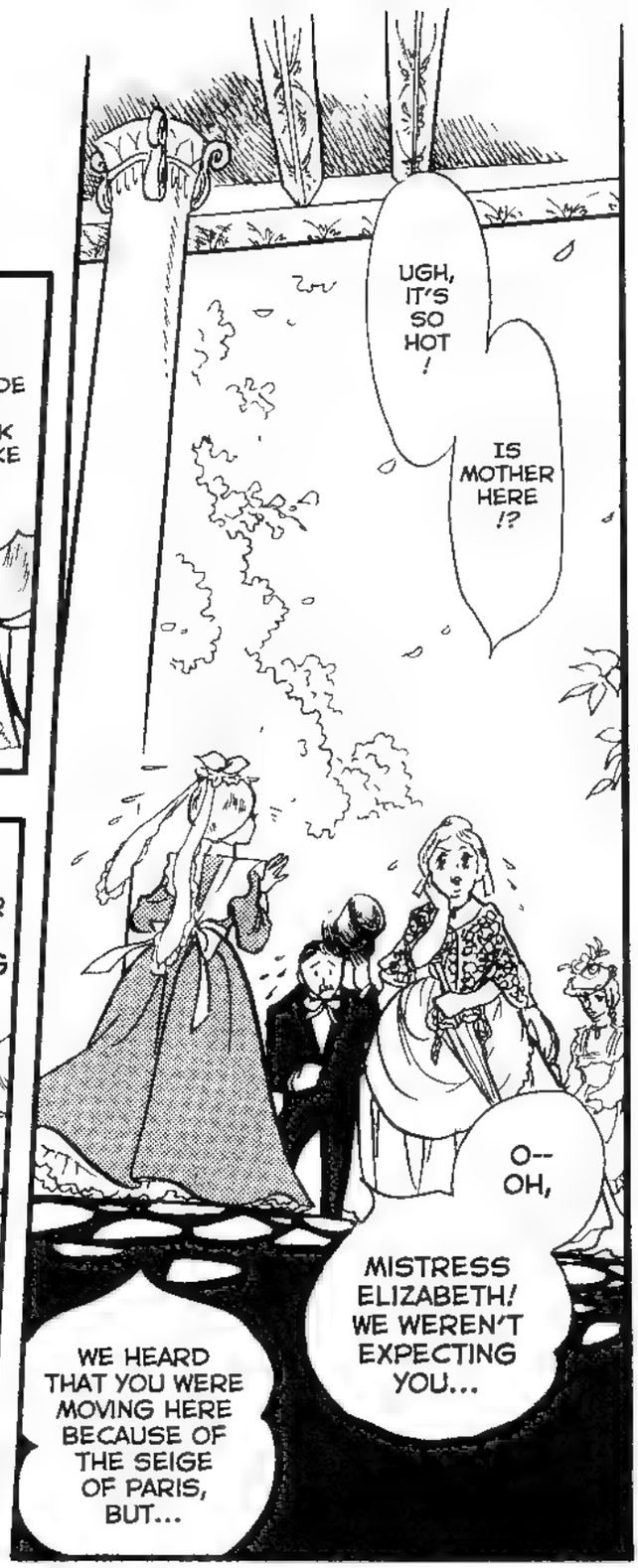
I WILL NOT HIT YOU UNTIL YOU HOLD YOUR HANDS OUT.
IF YOU THINK YOU DID WRONG, YOU WILL HOLD YOUR HANDS OUT BY YOUR OWN VOLITION.
LET THIS BE A REMINDER OF THE CONSE-QUENCES OF YOUR ACTIONS.
A YOUNG MAN'S PUNCT-UALITY IS HIS FIRST PRIOR-ITY.

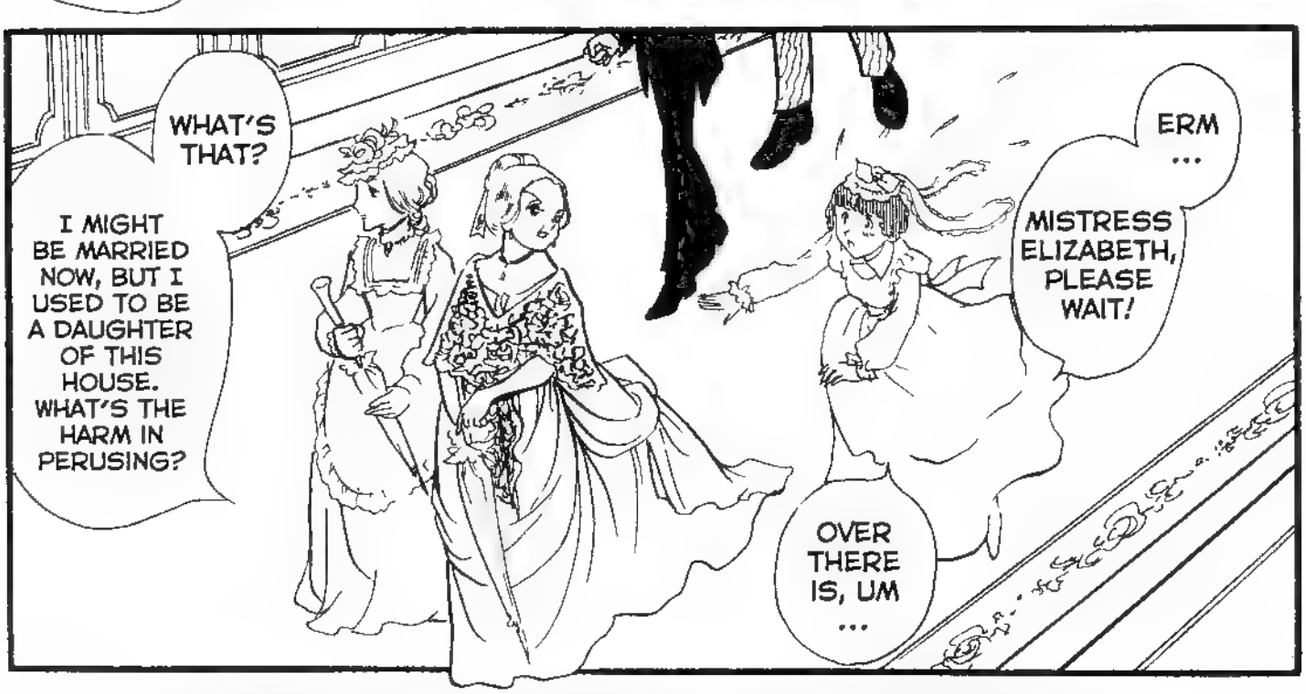
ビク!

I'M SORRY
ゴク
... ...


AH-
...
-CH
GOOD
TODAY WE'LL WORK SOME MORE ON YOUR PRONUN-CIATION
WELL, SIT DOWN
HE WILL HAVE TO LEARN MUCH MORE
BEFORE HE IS READY TO FACE THE WORLD
AS THE HEIR TO THE VISCOUNTY
HOW PITIFUL
...
AND HE'S ONLY FOUR
BUT WE REALLY MUST HURRY



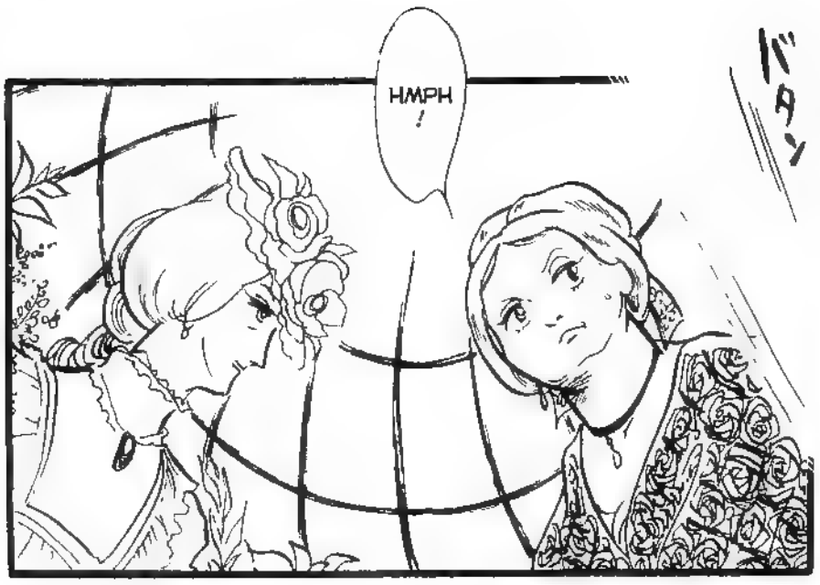


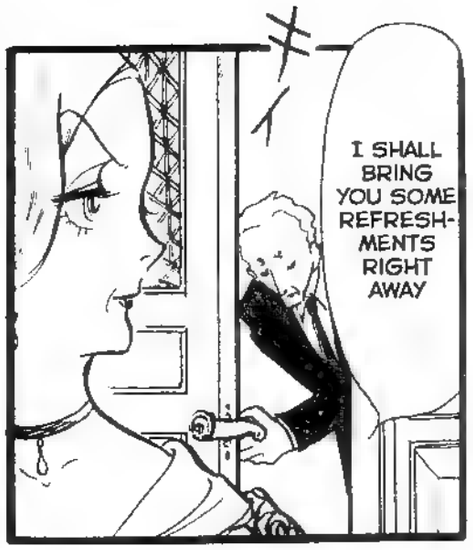


☆AUTHOR'S NOTE: THIS IS REFERRING TO THE EVENTS OF THE PARIS COMMUNE, WHICH OCCURED AFTER THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

WHAT ON EARTH ?!
THIS IS QUITE UN-TOWARD
ALTHOUGH YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THIS HOUSEHOLD, I AM BAFFLED AS TO HOW ENTERING UNANNOUNCED IS APPRO-PRIATE
EVEN I, THE BUTLER, HAD NO INDICATION OF YOUR ARRIVAL. I WOULD ASK YOUR DISCRETION BEFORE BARGING INTO ANYONE'S RESIDENCE, MY LADY.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ...
YOU, SAY SOME-THING!
DO I NEED A REASON?!
I WOULDN'T THINK SOCIAL CLASS HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS...
FOR WHAT PURPOSE HAVE YOU COME?
I WONDER IF YOU HAVE ANY RIGHT TO CRITIQUE MY CONDUCT!
THERE ARE NO BUTS ABOUT IT! THIS HOUSE HAS FALLEN FROM HIGH SOCIETY
YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT FROM ME ..
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE WITHOUT GREETING HIM, NOW CAN I?
BY THE WAY, I HEARD THAT THE HEIR TO THE VISCOUNTY IS HERE
.....
FEEL FREE TO IGNORE ME!
I JUST TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO STOP BY AND ENJOY SOME FRESH AIR ON MY WAY BACK TO PARIS

I HEAR HE HAS BROWN SKIN AND BROWN EYES ... QUITE THE EXOTIC CHILD!
I WANT TO HAVE A LOOK AT HIM
oh ho no ho
PRE-CISELY
ho ho
NO DOUBT, DEAR SISTER!
AFTER ALL, GYPSIES ARE VAGRANTS WITH NO COUNTRY TO CALL THEIR OWN!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
HE WILL BE MAKING HIS DEBUT NEXT MONTH
PLEASE, COME THIS WAY
HAVE A REST IN THE SUN ROOM
THEY ARE GRASPING AT ANYTHING THEY CAN USE TO LEVERAGE AGAINST HIS BIRTHRIGHT
WELL WELL, IT SEEMS HIS RELATIVES HAVE DECIDED TO GO SNIFFING AROUND
PLEASE MAKE YOUR-SELVES COMFOR-TABLE
THEY CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO MEET EACH OTHER
NOT UNTIL THAT CHILD HAS BEEN SHAPED INTO A FLAWLESS YOUNG NOBLE
HER LADYSHIP HAS ALSO MADE PREPAR-ATIONS
BUT THERE'S STILL HOPE





IT MAKES ME SICK!

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT COMES OUT OF HIS MOUTH, HE'S ALWAYS LOOKING DOWN ON PEOPLE WITH THAT PLACID FACE!

HE'S AS RUDE AS EVER!

WELL, ENOUGH ABOUT HIM

WE SHOULD LOOK FOR ASLAN'S LITTLE MEMENTO*

THE REAL REASON I CAME HERE WAS TO TAKE A LOOK AT THAT CHILD

UN ...

T/N: THE TERM USED HERE WAS 忘れがたみ WHICH MEANS A POSTHUMOUS CHILD OF ONE PARENT, BUT NOT NECESSARILY AN ORPHAN. IT USUALLY INDICATES THAT THE CHILD IS VIEWED AS A KEEPSAKE TO REMEMBER A DEAD PARENT BY. THUS IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT THE WORD IS A HOMOPHONE FOR MOMENTO.

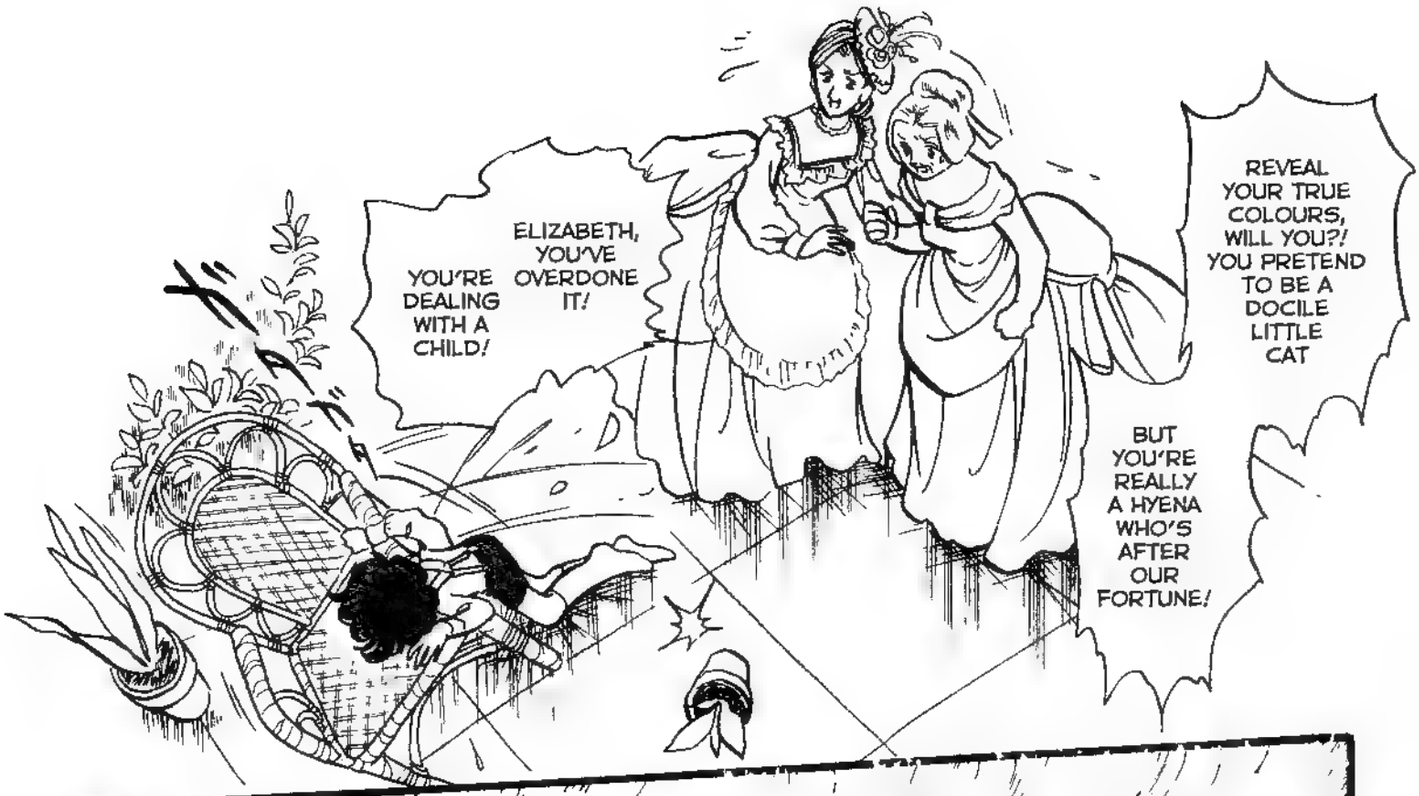
BY THE WAY, DID YOU HEAR?
THE KID'S MOTHER IS IN A SANATORIUM NOW, WITH TUBERCULOSIS
SOONER OR LATER SHE WILL MEET HER UNTIMELY DEATH, JUST LIKE ASLAN
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE TITLE, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN SECURING THE ASSETS!
IN OTHER WORDS
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT HIS MOTHER BECOMING THE REGENT TO THE VISCOUNTY
AHH, WHAT A NUISANCE!
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT WHEN OUR MOTHER DIES, THE SAME DILEMMA REMAINS
ASLAN'S MEMENTO?! AS IF WE CAN EVEN KNOW THAT'S TRUE!
IS THAT SO?!
THAT WOMAN IS A COCOTTE
HE COULD BE ANYONE'S CHILD
AND IT SEEMS SHE'S QUITE FRIENDLY WITH THAT PHYSICIAN OF HERS IN THE SANATORIUM
I BRIBED THE BUTLER'S SECRETARY WITH A ROUBLE AND GOT THIS INFORMATION
IT'S TRUE

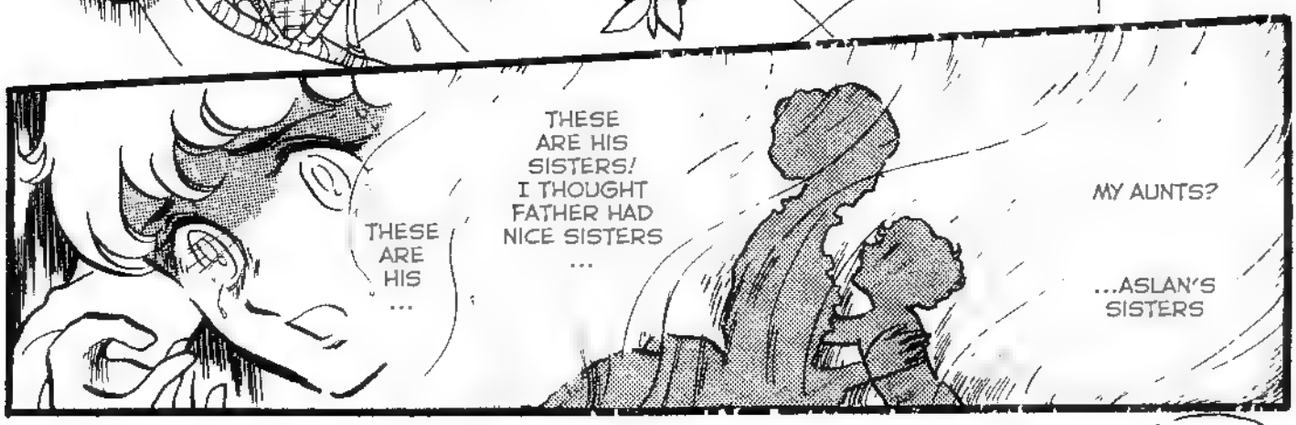
COCOTTES ARE BEINGS OF FLEETING PASSIONS
I UNDER-STAND NOW WHY SHE WON'T SHOW HER FACE IN THIS HOUSE
BECAUSE SHE HAS HER NEW LOVER, THE DOCTOR,
A CHILD FROM SOME OTHER MAN WOULD JUST BE A HINDRANCE, WOULDN'T IT
YES, IN-DEED
RATHER THAN ASSIMILATE INTO HIGH SOCIETY AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A VISCOUNTY,
SHE WOULD RATHER RID HERSELF OF A CHILD THAT COMES WITH THAT KIND OF TROUBLE
MAKES SENSE WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE LONG LEFT TO LIVE, OF COURSE!

IF YOU'VE BEEN SENT TO EAVES-DROP, I WON'T BE BRIBED!
GET OUT!
WHAT... A NEGRO CHILD? IS HE THE CHILD OF ONE OF THE SERVANTS?
THAT'S RIGHT
IF IT WEREN'T SO, THERE'S NO WAY THAT CALCULATING COCOTTE WOULD LEAVE THIS FORTUNE ALONE!
WHO'S THERE?!
I TOLD YOU TO GO, YOU DISGUSTING LITTLE THING!
.....
...YES, AN ARROGANT COCOTTE WHO WAS PROUD OF HER BROWN SKIN AND DARK HAIR!
A GYPSY COCOTTE
INDEED, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE IS THIS CHILD'S MOTHER
...WAIT! WHO DID ASLAN ELOPE WITH, AGAIN?

MOTHER SAID SHE'D BE COMING HERE
SHE SAID SHE'D COME SOON, AND ASKED ME TO WAIT FOR HER
WHO ARE YOU ?
WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MY MOTHER LIKE THAT ?
YOU REALLY ARE A PROSTITUTE'S SON
YOU THINK OF NOTHING BUT EAVESDROPPING
TO COME !
WE DON'T WANT A WOMAN LIKE HER
AREN'T YOU FUNNY, PIPSQUEAK
THAT'S RIGHT
FATHER GAVE IN AND SUCCUMBED TO YOUR LOT
I WON'T LET YOU GO WITHOUT LEARNING A FEW THINGS!
YOU AND THAT WOMAN ARE THE ONES WHO RUINED THIS HOUSE!
NO ...
AH !
OH... ARE YOU GOING TO RUN?
YOU DON'T HAVE THAT RIGHT

AAH!
LET ME GO !!
ELIZABETH, THAT'S ENOUGH
LET HIM GO
IT'LL BE A PROBLEM IF HE CRIES
BUT WE, YOUR KIN, DO NOT ACCEPT YOU!
REMEMBER THAT, AND REMEMBER IT WELL!
LET ME GO!
OW!
YOU BRAT, HOW DARE YOU!
WHO ...
WHO ARE YOU ...?
SERGE, YOU SHOULD BEHAVE PROPERLY IN FRONT OF YOUR AUNTS
MY AUNT ?!
IT PAINS ME TO SAY IT, BUT I'M YOUR AUNT ...
ME?
ELIZABETH!

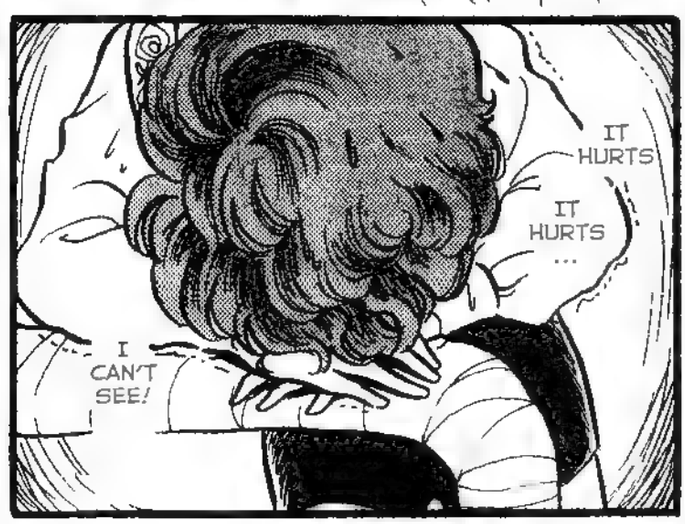

YOU'RE DEALING WITH A CHILD!
ELIZABETH, YOU'VE OVERDONE IT!
REVEAL YOUR TRUE COLOURS, WILL YOU?! YOU PRETEND TO BE A DOCILE LITTLE CAT
BUT YOU'RE REALLY A HYENA WHO'S AFTER OUR FORTUNE!


THESE ARE HIS ...
THESE ARE HIS SISTERS! I THOUGHT FATHER HAD NICE SISTERS ...
MY AUNTS?
...ASLAN'S SISTERS

AH
AH...
AH
AH ... ... AHH

MY EYE ...

LET'S GO
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY


IT HURTS
IT HURTS ...
I CAN'T SEE!

clip clop clip clop
ガラガラガラ
ガラ
ho ho ho
ボボボボ
SEND MY RE-GARDS TO MOTHER
I LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT MONTH'S "DEBUT"
WELL, THEN
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I MET AUNT ELIZA-BETH
I FELT SOME-THING HAD BROKEN INSIDE OF ME
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD EXPER-IENCED TRULY EVIL INTENT
...HOW DID HE EVEN HURT HIS EYE LIKE THAT?!
TRULY!
HE'S DONE NOTHING BUT CRY WITHOUT A WORD!
AND HE SEEMS COMPLETELY CRUSHED, TOO...
HE'S BITING HIS LIP ...

HE DOESN'T ACT LIKE A FIRST-BORN ...
BUT ...
THAT'S NOT VERY HEALTHY EITHER ...
THAT IS WOND-ERFUL!
BUT STILL! SUCH INTELLIGENCE IS A RARE THING
HE'S BEEN STUDYING AN AWFUL LOT LATELY
MY, WHAT HAS SERGE BEEN DOING?
Recite!
HE GOT TIRED OF YOU
HE'S ALL PRIM AND PROPER NOW
HE DOESN'T FIND ME THAT FUNNY ANY MORE
You're pushing it!
AH
HOW NICE OF YOU TO COME
I'M SORRY, GRANDMOTHER, BUT I MUST STUDY
LET'S HAVE A NICE, LONG CHAT TODAY
GRAND-MOTHER ... IT'S ME
SERGE ?! COME IN!
FROM THE AFTERNOON TO THE LATE EVENING, HE'S STUDYING
HE'S TURNING OUT TO BE QUITE THE HONOURS STUDENT
AND HE'S BEEN SO SWEET AND INNOCENT SINCE HE ARRIVED

THE YOUNG MASTER IS WELL AWARE OF HIS POSITION
DO NOT WORRY, YOUR LADYSHIP
MY, MY ... TO-MORROW IS HIS DEBUT
YES THAT'S WHY HE HAS BEEN APPLYING HIMSELF TO HIS STUDIES SO MUCH
AWARE ...?
YES
COME HERE I NEED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT TOMORROW
CLAUDE! CLAUDE!
... IN-DEED
THAT CAN'T BE... THE CHILD IS NOT YET FIVE!

ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
PLEASE ...
THIS WAY
AH
MARGOT
コホン
OH ... INDED
SINCE WE'VE REUNITED LIKE THIS AT THE VISCOUNT'S RESIDENCE
EVERYONE, IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME
YES, INDEED
AS EXPECTED, EVERYONE IS IMMENSELY INTERESTED IN THE ISSUE OF SUCCESSION
WHAT A PLEASANT GATHERING ... COMPARED TO A FUNERAL, THAT IS
DON'T SAY SUCH CARELESS THINGS
SHHH
WELL, RUMOUR HAS IT THAT ONCE THE VISCOUNT'S WIDOW DIES, SHE'LL BECOME THE HEIR'S GUARDIAN
OH, YOU DON'T KNOW WHO HER FATHER IS?
WHAT A DISAGREEABLE WOMAN
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S MARRIED, SHE'S STILL ACTING LIKE SHE OWNS THE PLACE AND CONTROLS EVERYTHING

CLAUDE? COME IN
... YES ?
THE YOUNG MASTER'S MOTHER HAS PASSED AWAY
YOUR LADYSHIP, A SUDDEN NOTICE
GRAND-MOTHER, IT'S ME
I AM INVITING THE YOUNG MASTER IN
PLEASE CALM YOUR-SELF
OH ... SERGE!
YOUR LADYSHIP, PLEASE KEEP IT A SECRET FROM THE YOUNG MASTER FOR NOW!
AH
MAY I COME IN?
OR ARE YOU STILL GETTING READY?

風と木の詩⑨

フラワーコミックス

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造本には、じゅうぶん注意しておりますが、万一落丁・乱丁などの不良品がありましたらおとりかえいたします。

昭和三十年